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Mannheim museums leave you wanting more



Four-inch nail found lodged in Colo. man's skull



Golden Globes honor 'Aviator' and 'Sideways'

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2005

Spain indicts 8 in 9/11 terror attacks

Suspects accused of giving logistical help, false documents to hijackers



Eagles, Pats to play on



- New England stops Indy's offense, sets up rematch with Steelers for AFC title
- Eagles show no rust, earn trip to fourth consecutive NFC title game
- Pats' Dillon enjoys first playoff game

Back page, Pages 33-34

Left: Philadelphia Eagles' Brian Westbrook celebrates his TD reception during the first half of the Eagles' 27-14 win over the Minnesota Vikings in Sunday's NFC divisional playoff game in Philadelphia. Right: New England Patriots running back Corey Dillon files out of bounds short of the goal in during the second half of their AFC divisional playoff against the Indianapolis Colton Sunday in Foxboro. Mass. The Pats beat the Colts 20-3.

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COMING SOON



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ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Veterans Day parade death: A World War II veteran won't face charges for killing a friend he struck with a van he was driving at the start of Whitman's Veterans Day parade, the man's lawyer says

Brockton District Court Clerk Magistrate Kevin Creedon, who heard the vehicular homicide complaint filed by Whitman police against Joseph E. Davis, found no probable cause to send the case for prosecution and dismissed the complaint last week.

"They are happy to have it behind them," Davis' attorney, Patrick Gannon, told the Boston Herald. "It's unfortunate the families had to go through an additional eight weeks of wondering what was going to happen in a case that never should have been prosecuted in the first place. The clerk clearly saw that this was nothing but a tragic accident and I'm glad he acted accordingly."

Utah avalanche: Trained dogs found the body of one of five skiers feared buried beneath tons of snow left by a powerful avalanche. Sweatshirts and gloves also were found, possibly indicating more victims are nearby

The body of Shane Maixner, 27, of Sandpoint, Idaho, was found Sunday under 4 feet of snow as searchers scoured the area of Friday's slide Summit County Sheriff Daye Edmunds said at a news conference

"If anybody could have survived, it would have been Shane," his father, Joel Maixner, said from his North Dakota home. "He was in excellent condition. But the sheriff told me his head and chest were slammed into a tree. He died without a fight."

Edmunds said other clothing was discovered during Sunday's search, leading rescuers to suspect that more victims are close at hand

Flooding in Midwest: Water levels remained well above flood stage along the Wabash River in southwestern Indiana on Sunday as residents and National Guard troops sandbagged to protect against leaking levees

About 32,000 sandbags have been made available to shore up a levee in West Terre Haute where the crest was expected to be the highest since 1950, according to the State Emergency Management Agency Web site. Nearly 100 National Guard troops were helping, said SEMA spokesman Alden Taylor

War on terrorism

Australian Gitmo prisoner: Australian and U.S. authorities are still negotiating the terms of release of an Australian man held for three years without charge at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a spokeswoman for the attor-ney general said Monday.

Mamdouh Habib, a 48-year-old Egyptian-born father of four from Sydney, was captured near the Pakistan-Afghan border three weeks after the Sent 11 2001 attacks on the United States and has since been imprisoned at the U.S. military camp on suspi-

cion of aiding al-Qaida. During his three years in custody, Habib confessed to knowing about the Sept. 11 plot in advance and said he'd helped train some



Ukraine election: Supporters of former Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, losing presidential candidate, shout and hold election posters with his portrait during a rally in Donetsk, Ukraine. The Supreme Court began hearings Monday on what appeared to be the last appeal by Yanukovych over alleged fraud in the presidential election, which he lost to Ukrainian opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko

of the hijackers in martial arts. Habib's lawyers say he was coerced into making the confessions.

Last week, the United States announced that Habib would be freed without charge and returned to Australia.

World

'Ratman' strikes again: A man in a Ratman suit spent several hours on a rooftop balcony atop a courthouse in the Dutch city of Utrecht on Monday, protesting the treatment of fathers in divorce cases.

Police initially said they planned to ignore the man, a member of the group Fathers for Justice, until he came down.

But police spokeswoman Wendy Alberse said the man, whose name was not released. struck a deal to surrender peacefully. Police

offered him a ladder and he climbed through a window to safety, she said. "He won't be charged, and he has promised not to do it again," Alberse said.

Prince Harry's costume blunder: The European Union may consider banning Nazi symbols in its 25 member nations after Britain's Prince Harry wore a swastika armband to a costume party, the bloc's top justice official said Mon-

Franco Frattini, the EU's justice and home affairs commissioner, said he was open to discussing the issue at a Jan. 27 meeting of EU iustice ministers.

day

"It may be worth looking into the possibility of a total ban, a Europe-wide ban," his spokesman, Friso Ros-

cam Abbing, told reporters Monday. "Commissioner Frattini shares the general feeling of opprobrium on



the use of the swastika and other Nazi sym-

Srebrenica massacre: Two former Bosnian Serb army commanders were convicted and sentenced to lengthy prison terms Monday for their roles in the 1995 massacre of Muslims from Srebrenica, Bosnia.

Col. Vidoje Blagojevic, 54, a wartime commander of the Bratunac brigade, which took part in the killing of more than 7,000 Muslims in eastern Bosnia, was sentenced to 18 years for complicity in genocide and other war crimes

Dragan Jokic, 47, a major in the Zvornik brigade who assumed command during a week of killing at the end of the 1992-1995 war, received a nine-year sentence. He was convicted of murder, extermination and persecution on racial grounds.

Deadly clashes in Kuwait: Authorities have up to 15 Kuwaitis and Saudi Arabians in custody in relation to last week's two deadly clashes with Muslim fundamentalists, the interior minister said Monday.

Sheik Nawwaf Al Ahmed Al Sahah declined to say if the suspects had connections to terrorist organizations such as Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida. A day earlier, the Cabinet condemned the two shootouts as acts of terrorism

Military

Shooting involving Marine: A Marine who killed one town police officer and wounded another one was a gang member who was high on cocaine, not a combat veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress, police said.

Investigators said they are discounting a theory that Lance Cpl. Andres Raya, 19, may have instigated a "suicide by cop" provoking officers to shoot him — because he did not want to return to Iraq.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



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Crossing planned at Mildenhall near children's center

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — A plan to increase the size and capacity of the Child Development Center at RAF Mildenhall also will create a safer crossing on the busy high-

way between the base and the center.

A \$3.6 million project is about to start that will allow the center to bump up the number of children it can accept by more

'We'll be able to provide care for 98 additional children, said Melinda Camp, the center director. Currently, the center has 173 children and is unable to accept more because of

space limitations. The center serves families at both RAF Mildenhall and

RAF Lakenheath, a few miles away. The center at RAF Lakenheath is also at capacity, Camp said. The annex will include more than 11,000 square feet and provide the center with seven additional classrooms, a mod-

ern kitchen and enlarged administrative and training areas. "We'll have about 25 more staff," Camp said, to provide care for the additional children. Work will begin in mid-February, said Capt. Derek Fer-

land, 100th Civil Engineer Squadron engineering flight com-

"We'll probably target December for the handover," he said

A key to the upgrade is a crosswalk on the A1101 highway that runs between the center and base and on through Beck Row, the village that is home for the base.

Currently, there is no crosswalk of any type on the road despite heavy use by parents taking children to and from the cen-ter and by others from the base going to town to use the post office, shops and pubs. They rely on the good will of drivers to

stop and let them cross.

"It's not safe," Camp said. "People fly through there. The speed limit is 30 miles per hour, but many drivers exceed that posted limit. A couple years ago, a girl was injured

when a car struck her while she was crossing the highway. Also, the entrance to the center is midway between two curves, which means drivers unexpectedly come upon backed up traffic as people come and go from the center at

busy times of the day. Ferland said the road would be widened as part of the project to provide a turning lane, which should diminish the

amount of traffic stopped on the highway.

The cost is \$560,000 for the crosswalk and road widening. he said, but the Air Force needed special approval from Con-

gress to use military dollars for the project.
"We don't own the 1101. It's a British highway," he said The project is now awaiting local approval of the plan. Fer-land said work should start soon and the crosswalk may be in

use in March The crosswalk will include button-activated traffic lights to

ston vehicles. Ferland said. Also, speed reduction signs and textured road surfacing

will warn drivers of the crosswalk.

Camp said parents would be asked to park on base when possible and walk across the highway to the center once the

crosswalk is in use. That, she said, will lighten the traffic in and out of the center. The current situation is too dangerous "We won't ask our kids and parents to do that now." she

E-mail Ron Jensen at: iensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

CHARLES SERVICE

Airman Nicholas Branham's vehicle, totalled in 2004, was one of more than 700 vehicles registered to Americans that got into accidents outside Aviano Air Base, Italy, last vear. Officials from the 31st Fighter Wing hope a new program helps to lower those numbers.

Aviano hopes to help young drivers improve road skills

BY KENT HARRIS Stars and Strines

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy -With all that an assignment in northern Italy has going for it, the Air Force hopes to soon add another attraction: better drivers

Plagued by a rash of motor vehicle accidents since the mid-1990s, the 31st Fighter Wing is contemplating mandatory behind-the-wheel training for those 26 and younger Instead of just having them attend briefings and take a written test, they also would be required to attend courses taught by professionals where they're instructed on how to drive under difficult conditions

"The reason why we're doing this is pretty obvious," said Lt. Col. Adri-an Pone, chief of wing safety. "There are a lot of accidents out there on the roads

Brig. Gen. Philip Breedlove, the wing commander, has repeatedly said that auto accidents represent the greatest danger to airman assigned to Aviano.

Attempts to reduce accidents have created some short-term success. But two-dozen neonle have died and hundreds have suffered injuries as the accidents continue at roughly the same pace every year.

735 accidents involving American registered cars last year

is average, said Lia Scandola, traffic program manager. The wing hopes its Safe Streets

program will get the numbers down. The program contains four components: education, enforcement, rewards and training. Under education,

26-and-younger will continue to get a mandatory briefing when they come to Aviano and refreshers at six months and a year. Under enforcement, command-

ers have the discretion to revoke a driver's license or take other action against someone thought to be driving recklessly - accidents or not.

Under rewards, days off for the entire wing are possible if goals are met. The goals: dropping the total number of accidents by 15 percent over a six-month period and 30 percent over a year.

But it's the training aspect that's the most innovative and expensive.

The wing is trying to find out how much it would cost to hire a professional agency to provide the training. Sending all new arrivals younger than 26 - estimated at about 1,200 each year - through such a course might cost too much.

Scandola said statistics show that younger drivers are much more likely to get in accidents. That's why they're being targeted

arrivals face a number of challenges when they arrive at Aviano. Roads are narrow. Some rules are new. Italians drive differently. Conditions get nasty when it freezes, rains or snows.

Common sense also comes into

"If people would just slow down and pay attention, I think we'd have a reduction in accidents," Pone

But he hopes the course, which could involve obstacle courses and hands-on lessons on how to maneuver under less-than-perfect condi-tions, will help. He said a similar program at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany, voluntary but popular with new airmen, was an inspiration for those behind the Aviano pro-

The wing hopes to have as much success with Safe Streets against accidents as it seems to be having with the Responsibility Condition program that targets drunken driv-ing. That program gives the entire wing a day off if it goes without a DUI for 31 days and limits access to places that serve alcohol when DUIs pile up.

After two straight years of 46 DUIs at Aviano, the number dropped to 28 last year.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Marine officer advocates for 'below the line forces' in Europe

By SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

GAETA, Italy — Marine Col. Robert "Barry" Cronin is a cop-turned-advocate. The former police officer, both military and civilian, heads the Combined Task Force 68, headquartered in Gaeta, in which he and his staff of four serve as advocates for sailors and Marines who are

"helow the line forces" in Europe These are forces defined as servicemembers not belonging to ships, subs or air wings within the 6th Fleet command, he

"We are the point of contact when they're in theater. If they need assistance in theater, I'm their advocate," Cronin said. "And it cuts both ways. Part of the charter states that I ensure that whatever they're doing is in concert with long-term global objectives of

These forces include, for example, Seabees throughout the region, the Marine Corps Security Forces Rota Explosive

the 6th Fleet com-

mander.

Ordnance Unit 8 in Sigonella, Sic ily, and Mobile Mine Assembly Unit 5, also

CTF-68 is a result of the Navy's recent transformation, in which some units were transferred from Commander Naval Force "Initially, before we were shifted to

Sixth Fleet, we didn't have a voice" within the command said Lt Cmdr John Lennov operations officer with EOD Mobile Unit 8 in Sigonella, Now, tactical control of these Marines and sailors is faster and more effective with a task force commander. Lennox, 41, said.

"What it's done for us is given us a voice and a go-to person ... and streamlined the chain-of-command for us.

Company leaders of Marine Corps Security Forces Company-Europe in Rota, Spain, are in daily contact with CTF-68. coordinating requirements for missions such as maritime security, said executive officer Capt. Mark Zarnecki.

and [involved] in the planning [of missions] and trying to support you," Zarnecki, 28, said.

CTF-68, which started in July, provides fleet-level accountability, both for the com-mander to keep tabs on all people and units under his command, and for the individuals and units, Cronin, 52, said. The 26-year veteran is a bit of a house

keeper, from making sure the below the line forces have the security needed to accomplish missions to processing awards rapidly, "within days," Cronin said, instead of having a member wait what can be months to be recognized by a parent command back home

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@mail.estripes.osd.mil

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Accordated Press

As of Sunday, at least 1,363 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,071 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last undated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16. Ukraine, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major com-

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,225 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 962 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Sunday when an armored vehicle flipped and plunged into a canal in western Baghdad. The latest identifications reported by military:

■ No identifications reported.



Ataf Alhariri registers to vote Monday in New Carrolton, Md., for the Jan. 30 Iraqi elections. Iraqi expatriates began registering to vote in U.S. cities for their homeland's first independent election in nearly 50 years.

Iraqi exiles register for nation's election

BY ED JOHNSON

The Associated Press

LONDON — Exiled Iraqis began registering to vote Monday in their homeland's first independent elections in nearly 50 years, with dozens arriving at polling stations in 14 countries from Australia to Britain to the United States — and many expressing confusion at the process.

At a London registration center near Wembley Stadium, Saieb Jabbar, who left Baghdad in 1980, registered with his 23-year-old son, Ahmed, who made his only visit to Iraq recently. Both were

eager to vote.
"We lived in a dictatorship a long time, and it's the first time in my life, in my 48 years, that I can vote in Iraq," Saieb Jabbar said. "I feel very happy."

Britain set up three polling centers — in Glasgow, Manchester and London — which meant voters had to travel long distances several times, first to register and then to cast their ballots.

Eligible Iraqis abroad — estimated to number 1.2 million can vote in Britain, Australia, Sweden, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iran, Jordan, the Netherlands, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and the United States.

Voting will be held in six cities in Iran, five in the United States, four in Germany, and three in the Netherlands and Canada.

The seven-day registration period ends Jan. 23. Voting will begin Jan. 28 and continue until the Jan. 30 elections in Iraq for an assembly that will draft a constitution and choose a president. The walls of the registration

The walls of the registration center in Berlin were plastered with posters showing a Muslim woman in front of the Brandenburg Gate holding the Iraqi flag with a German slogan saying, "It's the same wherever I am—
w heart is in the homeland"

my heart is in the homeland."
Hussein Al-Nasravi, an engineer, said he made sure to register on the first day because he believes free elections are the only hope for his country.

"The future of the world is democracy," he said in German.
"The situation for this vote is not optimal, that is clear, but for the future it is a good beginning."

future it is a good beginning."
But in Damascus, Syria, registrar Musab al-Rifai said he believed many of his countrymen would not register "because they are unconvinced that their vote would change anything."

In the United States, Iraqi expains the United States, Iraqi expashington, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and Nashville, Tenn.The Detroit area has the greatest population of Iraqi immigrants in the United States, with an estimated 80,000 Iraqi exiles living throughout Michigan



Iraqi policemen burn election posters of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi on Monday as they rally through the streets of Najaf. Policemen demanded their salaries for past several months.

Rebels target Iraqi forces

More than 20 die in attacks aimed at derailing vote

BY ROBERT H. REID The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gummen targeted security forces in a series of brazen attacks Monday that killed more than 20 people. A suicide bomber attacked U.S. Marines in Ramadi, where two Shite Muslims were beheaded and their bodies left on a sidewalk.

In Mosul, a Catholic archbishop was kidnapped. The top U.S. general here predicted more violence on the Jan. 30 balloting but pledged to do "everything in our power" to ensure safety. U.S. and Traqi authorities hope for a substantial turnout, especially from the long-suppressed Shiite Muslim maiority.

The deadliest attacks occurred in the three insurgent flashpoint cities north and west of Baghdad in areas where Sunni Muslim insurgents are seeking to derail the balloting.

In Buhriz, 35 miles north of Baghdad, gummen attacked an Iraqi National Guard checkpoint at the provincial broadcasting center, killing eight soldiers and wounding four. A suicide driver blasted a police station in Beiji, 155 miles north of the capital, killing seven policemen and wounding 25 people.

A U.S. spokesman said Marines suffered an undisclosed number of casualties in a suicide car bombing in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad. The Marines were sent to check a suspicious vehicle and when they arrived, they came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire and the vehicle exploded.

"There were U.S. casualties," 1st Lt. Lyle Gilbert said. He declined to give further details, citing security.

Also in Ramadi, officials Monday found six bodies—five civilians and one Iraqi soldier—each bear-ing handwritten notes declaring them collaborators, officials said. Four had been shot but two were beheaded, their blood-soaked bodies left where they died.

A note left beside the bodies said they were Shiites who confessed to spying for the Americans. They were seized after leaving an American garrison in the middle of the city, the note said.

Shittes have been targets of intimidation because they are expected to turn out in large numbers for the election, in which Iraqis will choose a 275-member National Assembly that will appoint a new government and draft a permanent constitution.

Shiites form about 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million population, and their candidates are expected to win most of the assembly seats. Many Sunni Arabs fear the loss of power they enjoyed under Saddam Hussein. Sunni clerics have called for a boycott, and U.S. officials fear a low Sunni turnout may cast doubt on the legitimacy of the new government.

On Monday, police discovered a car loaded with explosives in the Shilte holy city of Karbala. On Sunday, a total of 17 people were killed in attacks along the main highway from Baghdad to Kut, 100 miles to the southeast.

Many Shiltes have been using the Kut highway

Many Simites nave been using the Kut inghway for travel to the south to avoid a more direct route which passes through the "triangle of death," where sunni extremists have been targeting Shittes, foreigners, government officials and security personnel.

In Kut, gummen broke into an administration building at Wasit University early Monday, wounded two guards and ransacked some offices, police said. University authorities postponed exams until after the election. Kut is in a largely Shiite province which U.S. officials said was safe for elections.

In a statement Monday, Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commander of the multinational forces, said about 300,000 U.S., Iraqi and other international forces will be available to protect voters.

"Is there going to be violence on election day? There is, but it's important that we understand what's happening here," Casey said. "It's not just about violence. It's about former regime loyalists and foreign terrorists murdering innocent Iraqis and Iraqi security forces to stop them from exercising their right to vote."

Nevertheless, violence has already impacted on the exercise in democracy. Some political alliances have declined to release all the names of their candidates for fear of attack, and little public campaigning has been possible except in Kurdish areas of the north.

Shiite politician Salama Khafaji, who survived an ambush Sunday in central Baghdad by gunmen wearing police uniforms, said she canceled campaigning in the south after her staff discovered terrorist checkonits on maior routes.

In Mosul, Archbishop Basile Georges Casmoussa, 66, of the Syrian Catholic Church, was seized while walking in front of his church, a priest said on condition of anonymity. No group claimed responsibility, but The Vatican condemned the abduction as a "terrorist act."

Christians make up just 3 percent of Iraq's 26 million people.

The major Christian groups include Chaldean-Assyrians and Armenians with small numbers of Roman Catholics.

No evidence WMD were moved from Iraq

PFLEGER SHRADER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - As the hunt for weapons of mass destruction dragged on unsuccessfully in Iraq, top Bush administration speculated publicly that the banned armaments may have been smuggled out of the country before the war.

Whether Saddam Hussein moved the WMD - deadly chemical, biological or radiological arms — is one of the unresolved issues that the final U.S. intelligence report on Iraq's programs is expected to address next month.

But intelligence and congressional offi-

tion - never "a piece," said one - indicating that WMD or significant amounts of components and equipment were transferred from Iraq to neighboring Syria, Jor-

The administration acknowledged last week that the search for banned weapons is largely over. The Iraq Survey Group's chief, Charles Duelfer, is expected to submit the final installments of his report in February. A small number of the organization's experts will remain on the job in case new intelligence on Iraqi WMD is un-

A special adviser to the CIA director,

through an agency spokesman. In his last public statements, he told a Senate panel last October that it remained unclear whether banned weapons could have been moved from Irag.

Last week, a congressional official speaking on condition of anonymity, said suggestions that weapons or components were sent from Iraq were based on speculation stemming from uncorroborated in-

President Bush and top-ranking officials in his administration used the existence of WMD in Iraq as the main justification for the March 2003 invasion, and House continued to raise the possibility the weapons were transferred to another country

Since the October report from Duelfer, which said Saddam intended to obtain WMD but had no banned weapons, senior administration leaders have largely stopped discussing whether the weapons

Last week, the intelligence and congressional officials said there was evidence indicating that somewhat common equipment with dual military and civilian uses, such as fermenters, was salvaged during post-invasion looting and sold for scrap in other countries

Four months later, 2nd Brigade sees changes in Ramadi

Residents are more cooperative, but attacks from insurgents grow as Iraqi elections near

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO Stare and Strings

RAMADI, Iraq our months ago, when the 2nd Brigade Combat Team arrived in Ramadi, the local population certainly did not roll out the welcome mat. But in the intervening months, as the brigade adjusted its operations and sought more interaction, the relationship has gotten decidedly better.

With the Jan. 30 elections looming in Ramadi - one of Iraq's



AP/Stars and Stripes

most dangerous cities for U.S. ser vicemembers - 2nd Infantry Division officials say they have a plan in place and are encouraged by a change in sentiments around the region.

"Four months ago, we were doing 'movement to contact' natrols every day. We were an obtru-sive presence," Col. Gary S. Patton, brigade commander, said Sat-urday. "Now, we've established a security base in the city, and we're doing more precision raids. We're getting good intel from the local population. When we first got here, that wasn't happening.

Patton points to two recent examples. Last week, acting on a tip, 2nd Brigade forces swept up 20 "named targets" in a single raid. A few weeks earlier, members of the unit performed something even more unthinkable when they first arrived.

"We staged ambushes out of people's houses and killed nine-man terror squads," Patton said. Before, he said, someone would have alerted the insurgents to their presence.

"Things we couldn't do four months ago, we've done in the past 45 days."

The brigade, which includes 3,500 soldiers, has completed \$1.5 million worth of civil projects during that time and helped create 800 new jobs, officials said. Universities and schools opened on time this fall, and city officials are returning to their jobs.

But brigade officials acknowledge they are in the midst of what Patton called a "classic counterinsurgency fight" in a city with a population approaching 400,000. Since deploying to Iraq, the brigade has lost at least 36 soldiers to enemy actions ranging from small-arms fire to roadside bombs. Dozens more soldiers

have been seriously wounded. The peak of the attacks happened during Ramadan and included 18 suicide car bomb attacks, said Mai. Steve Alexander, brigade operations officer.

That was the defining event so far," he said. "That was when we saw a serious spike in violence.

Since then, things quieted a little, he said. But as the elections draw closer, the brigade is seeing the action pick up again. Patrols have come under fire nearly every day, mortars have been shot at bases and a crowd of children threw rocks at one unit last

The insurgents around Ramadi are made up of at least five different groups, Alexander said, ranging from former Baathists to foreign fighters bent on jihad.

"The former regime elements really have the most long-term goals and long-term strategy," he "The jihadists seem much more interested in just killing peo-

Most of the groups have shifted



ANDREW D. YOUNG/Courtesy 2nd Brigade Combat Tear

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment pass out blankets and food in a town south of Ramadi. The mission, dubbed Operation Robin Hood, is part of the 2nd Brigade's efforts to build a relationship with the local population.

their focus to an intimidation campaign targeting anyone — espe-cially local Iraqi National Guardsmen or Iraqi police - who work with U.S. troops. But each part of the insurgency has its specialties. Alexander said. Some are former

Saddam's army: others are former service agents who are trained in terror and intimidation: others are simple direct-action cells who attack with small-arms.

mortarmen from

"They can't be underestimated operationally or strategically," he said. "But tactically, we always win."

For the elec-tions, the brigade has received a special battalion of

Iraqi commandos who have fought alongside U.S. units from Mosul to Fallujah. The key, said Mai. Robert Proctor, the brigade's Iraqi Security Forces development officer, is that the commandos are not from the local

The intimidation campaign which saw five of the eight police stations in Ramadi destroyed or looted by insur-44 The question I

always ask, and

one that I

haven't gotten a

straight answer

to yet, is 'What

was Ramadi like

five years ago?'

2nd Brigade fire support and

information operations officer

Maj. Tom Munsey

gents - largely doesn't work on the commandos, Proctor said "We're intro-

ducing forces that without a doubt are willing to engage and destroy insurgents They've show that fighting alongside the soldiers and Marines in Fallu-

jah," Proctor said. The commando battalion, led by a

career military man named Col. Muhammed, has already started patrols with 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry soldiers in downtown Ra-

madi. The big test will come on

election day, both for the Iraqi

and U.S. forces, officials said.
One challenge, Mai, Tom Muney, the brigade fire support and information operations officer, said is the relatively high illiteracy rate outside of Ramadi, which was once known as a university

"The big impression I get is that the people of Ramadi are tired of the fighting," Munsey said. "The question I always ask, and one that I haven't gotten a straight answer to yet, is 'What was Ramadi like five years

Second Brigade officials bristle at comparisons of Ramadi to Fallujah or reports that label it an "in-surgent stronghold." Since Day One, they note, 2nd Brigade soldiers have patrolled in Ramadi; on the other hand. Falluiah was a 'no-go" zone for coalition forces until the November assault

'It's a contested city, that's for sure. I don't think we can quite see the light at the end of the tunnel yet," said Alexander, the oper-ations officer. "But we've at least turned the corner and can see some doors we might be able to get to."

Photos from the Front

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ABOVE A young boy peers into the camera after soldiers delivered a wheelchair to a double amputee living in a small cluster of buildings near the south side of the Tigris River in Baghdad Thursday. The man, not shown, normally sits at the corner of a nearby building in a home-built wheelchair, but the soldiers received two wheelchairs and decided to donate one to the man, who they see during their frequent patrols in the area

Jason Chudy/Stars and Stripes BELOW Pvt. Richard Martinez grabs an M240 machine gun from Pfc. John Howell as Spc. George Ernie waits to hand up a .50 caliber machine zun. The soldiers of 8 Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, were moving the weapons on the tank in preparation for a late-night patrol in southern Baghdad.

Jason Churk/Stars and Strings

RIGHT Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Garcia, right, of Indianapolis and a member of 3rd Squad, Troop A, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, shows his soldiers a picture of Saddam Hussein and his sons Garcia found while searching a home in Ad Duluiyah in November.

Photo by Ismail Turay Jr, U.S. Army Reserves BELOW RIGHT countryside and a 7.62mm mounted M60 machine gun reflects off the Darth Vader-looking mask of Army Spc. Rex Mitchell. Mitchell is a gunner with a Black Hawk unit deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

Photo by Kevin Dougherty - The Afghan







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Hoosiers on patrol: Keeping watch in Kabul

Indiana National Guard unit does 'a little bit of everything' while on missions in Afghanistan

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan en minutes into the morning patrol Spc. Austin Wethington stumbled into a pit of urine while

negotiating an icy alley running between two rows of mud houses. The Afghan kids trailing the squad broke into a chorus of laughter

Wethington couldn't help but chuckle himself as he withdrew his soiled leg.

Five minutes later, an Afghan child, who hadn't seen the soldier slip, called the 19-year-old from Plainfield, Ind., "Mr. America, as the squad passed by.

"He's fueling his ego," Spc. Trevor Beaman cracked

Afghans' perceptions of U.S. forces can vary from moment to moment, which is why steady contact with locals is the best way to gain their trust. The most effective way to do that is to walk amongst them.

Wethington, Beaman and five other members of 6th Platoon, Company A. 151st Infantry Battalion of the Indiana National Guard recently went on a foot patrol through an area called Hudkhill on Kabul's northeast side. The neighborhood is a field away from Camp Phoenix, where the unit resides

The other soldiers from the Hoosier state who took part in the 90-minute march were: Staff Sgt. Pat Keane, 34, of Decatur; Sgt. Jeremy Campbell, 26, of Pekin; Spc. Greg Gilbert, 24, of Anderson; Spc. Joe Pavolka, 21, of Laporte; and Spc. Nick Barlow, 20, of Fort Wayne. Campbell and Gilbert are combat medics while Keane is the platoon sergeant. though, on this patrol, Barlow led the squad.

Every second or third day a soldier can expect to go out on a foot patrol. In addition, they spend a lot of time on the road on convoy security or assisting a troop or unit in need. Soldiers also take their turn as members of a quick-reaction force.

"We do a little bit of everything," Keane said.

As they left the compound behind, the soldiers were seen off by the base mascot, Cherry, a local white mutt, which now calls Camp Phoenix home

After Wethington's misstep, the patrol emerged from the alley and into a clearing before happening upon a village elder. Keane had explained beforehand that elders are often approached during a patrol and asked a few questions, such as the possible movement of anti-coalition fighters or living conditions.

"Prior to the Americans comthe bearded man said through an interpreter in response to a question about daily life, "we didn't have food to eat on a regular basis.

The next elder Keane looks to approach is cradling a brown blanket, obviously concealing something. For a moment Keane grows sus-

picious, until the squad's interpreter tells Keane it's a deceased child under the cover. The troops let them grieve in neace. Peace of a different kind soon

comes to the patrol. The gaggle of



PHOTOS BY KEVIN DO

Army Spc. Trevor Beaman and other members of his squad traverse an open field while on a foot patrol in a Kabul neighborhood.

kids that have been shadowing the GIs for the better part of 15 minutes finally decide they ventured far enough away from home and retreat.

The patrol sets out across a dormant dirt field. A different group of boys playing soccer on the far end approach as the patrol nears. For a few kicks, Beaman gets into the act. That delights the kids and a second posse forms.

Barlow's patrol aims itself down another narrow, irregular, frozen, dirt pathway dividing a group of homes. They look new, based on the condition of the outer mud walls. Keane pauses with the interpreter and inspects a hole at the base of a wall. It looks to be an electrical junction box in the making.

"That's a good sign," Keane said, Afghans' "main desire is to have electricity back in their vilThe alley spills into a busy street that leads the troops to a road they crossed earlier. From there, the Hoosiers' hooch - and

pooch — aren't far. One more issue, however, demands their attention.

A man discreetly alerts the soldiers to a makeshift hash house along the road. Information is gathered, pictures are taken and the patrol resumes.

"He doesn't want it here," Bar-

low said. "He says the police won't do anything about it because the people who started it bought off the police."

Cherry waits for the patrol as they near a back gate of the camp. his tail wagging like crazy. The dog somehow got on top of a high wall laced with concertina wire.

"After seven months, [patrol-ling] can get old," Beaman said, "but it's a new adventure every day.

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil



their translator chat in a Kabul neighborhood with a truck driver named Norallah, far right. Barlow and Keane are members of 6th Platoon Company A. 151st Infantry Battalion of the Indiana National Guard.

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Attorney: Graner verdict won't affect other Iraqi abuse case

SAN ANTONIO, Texas though observers had predicted that Spc. Charles Graner's conviction in the Abu Ghraib prison scandal would trigger plea deals from the other defendants, at least one soldier still intends to go to trial.

Paul Bergrin, a Newark, N.J., lawyer representing Sgt. Javal Davis, said Sunday he still plans to argue that his client was obey-ing orders from higher-ranking officers and government agents to rough up detainees as a prelude to interrogation.

Lawvers for Graner offered that defense, but a military jury convicted him Friday of all five charges he faced and sentenced him Saturday to 10 years behind bars.

The panel needed less than five hours to reach its verdict in the first trial arising from the scandal at the Baghdad prison, ignited when graphic photographs were aired that showed Graner and other Army reservists brutalizing detainees

"I just don't believe it was presented the way we're going to present it," said Bergrin, whose witness list includes Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, who then was in charge of Abu Ghraib.

But retired Army lawyer Jeffrey Addicott said the Graner verdict should send lawyers for Davis and two other soldiers awaiting court-martial in the case scrambling to get the best deals they can.

IN THE WORLD

Spanish judge indicts 8 in 9/11 attacks

BY CIARAN GILES The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain - A Spanish judge indicted eight people on terrorism charges Monday, saying they provided logistical help and false documents for suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks.

The indictment was released by Spain's leading terror investigator, Judge Baltasar Garzon

It said the eight had provided logistics and counterfeit documents for suspects including Ramzi Binalshibh, an alleged would-be Sept. 11, 2001, hijacker who has been in U.S. custody since his

2002 capture in Pakistan. He is believed to have been the main con-tact between a group of Sept. 11 attackers in Hamburg, Germany, and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Binalshibh, who could not get into the United States to participate in the attacks but served as a key money man, reportedly is in U.S. custody at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The eight indicted suspects were identified as Reda Zerroug, Redouane Zenimi, Samir Mahdjoub, Mohamed Ayat, Hedi Ben Youssef Boudhiba, Khaled Madani, Tahar Ezirouali and Francisco Garcia

Garzon said they developed a "a network of forged documents to provide false identities or fake documents to other members of the network to help them move about flee or hide or (to heln) with their terrorist activities or links with organizations such as Ansar al-Islam, under the orders of Abu Musab al Zargawi," The latter is a Jordanian-born mili-

tant blamed for spearheading ter-Garzon issued an international arrest order for Boudhiba and Ezirouali and ordered the Spanjard's release on \$26,000 bail. The

rorist actions in Iraq.

others are jailed in Spain after their arrests between February and June

Garzon said Boudhiba is in jail in Britain. He said Boudhiba traveled from Hamburg to Istanbul, Turkey, on Sept. 3, 2001, along with a man named Ahmed Taleh a member of the Hamburg cell blamed for carrying out the Sept. 11 attacks. The alleged leader of the cell was suspected suicide nilot Mohamed Atta.

Investigators said Spain, along with Germany, was a major staging ground for the Sept. 11 at-

Rinalshibh and Atta met in the

Tarragona in July 2001, when Garzon says last-minute details of the attacks were decided, including the date

In September 2003, Garzon indicted 35 members of an alleged Spain-based al-Qaida cell and bin Laden as the mastermind of Sept. 11 on grounds that the attacks were planned in part in Spain.

Garzon later broadened the indictment to 40 people. Twen-ty-one of them are scheduled to go on trial on charges of terrorism over the next few weeks, al-though not all of them are charged with helping prepare the Sept. 11 attacks

Abbas ordering forces to stop attacks on Israel

BY LARA SUKHTIAN

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas ordered his security forces Monday to try to prevent attacks against Israel and to investigate a shooting at a Gaza Strip crossing that killed six Israeli civilians last

However, Palestinian officials would not provide details of the order, and it was unclear how it would be translated into action, if at all. Abbas insists he will use persuasion, not force, to rein in armed groups.

A Hamas spokesman said the Islamic militant group will continue carrying out attacks

Abbas was under growing pressure to move against militants following last week's attack at the Karni crossing between Gaza and Israel. Israel suspended ties with Abbas in response and ordered its army Sunday to do whatever was needed to stop Palestinian at-

But Israel decided to hold off on a major military offensive in Gaza to give Abbas more time to act against militants, a senior government official said Monday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell also urged Abbas in a phone call Sunday to rein in the armed groups, officials said.

Abbas' victory in presidential elections last week had raised hopes for a breakthrough in Mid-

Karni attack, two days before Abbas was sworn into office, ended his honeymoon with Israel before it ever started

Israeli troops raided several areas of Gaza over the weekend to halt rocket fire on Israeli settlements and border towns, withdrawing early Monday. Sixteen Palestinians were killed in the raids, among them nine gunmen and seven civilians, including a 10-year-old boy.

A senior Israeli military official said Monday the army will re-enter areas of the West Bank it is slated to evacuate later this year if Palestinian security forces cannot prevent attacks from the area. The remarks by the official. who spoke on condition of anonymity, indicated that Israel's planned withdrawal from the northern West Bank this summer might not be permanent.

In a Palestinian Cabinet meet ing Monday, Abbas instructed the security forces to try to prevent attacks against Israel

"A decision was taken that we will handle our obligation to stop violence against Israelis any-where," Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said

Abbas moved up his planned negotiations with militants. Ministers said he would travel to Gaza for talks with various factions Tuesday, instead of Wednesday, as initially scheduled.

Associated Press reporter Laurie Co-nans in Jerusalem contributed to this

Thai subway crash

An injured passenger is carried out of the Cultural Center station Monday after a subway train slammed into another one in Bangkok, Thailand. The accident, which occurred during morning rush hour, injured more than 200 people, six months after the subway system opened in the Thai capital. After the accident, service on the system was sus-

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African debt request

CAPE TOWN, South Africa British Treasury chief Gordon Brown on Monday called on wealthy nations and international financial institutions to write off Africa's debt, saying debts incurred by past generations are keeping the continent poor.

Brown wants rich nations to set a timetable for raising development aid and for more countries to sign on to the International Finance Facility — an initiative in-tended to double rich countries' aid to Africa from the current level of \$50 billion

2 die when ship sinks

ATHENS, Greece - Two sail-ors were killed and six others were missing Monday after a North Korean flagged cargo ship sank in the eastern Aegean Sea, as storms battered Greece, disrupting flights and causing power failures

The Merchant Marine Ministry said three sailors of the Lady O ship were rescued by helicopter and a nearby vessel.

Two of the survivors were hospitalized on the nearby island of Chios and were in good condition. From wire reports

U.S. troops' Sri Lanka relief work to end soon

BY TINI TRAN
The Associated Press

GALLE, Sri Lanka — U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Monday that Sri Lanka is moving swiftly from relief to reconstruction three weeks after a devastating tsunami and help from U.S. millitary engineers will not be needed much longer.

In Indonesia, the United Nations banned its staff from traveling between the hard-hit provincial capital of Banda Aceh to the east Sumatran city of Medan because of reported fighting between the military and separatist rebels in the tsunami-battered area a U.N. spokesman said.

Also Monday, the Indonesian military and the top U.N. official in Aceh province said they had no information of a specific threat to aid workers in Indonesia, despite a warning Monday from Denmark of an "imminent terror atAn insurgent commander told The Associated Press that rebels will not attack foreign aid workers because the groups have been helping disaster victims.

After visiting a battered area on Sri Lanka's southern coast, Wolfowitz said he was "impressed by how resilient people are" and then met the country's leaders to see what more America can do.

He said cooperation by Tamil rebels in the relief efforts was "probably a good sign," and hoped the catastrophe shared by the feuding ethnic groups would help spur peace efforts.

"When people face a disaster of this kind and see help coming from their government and help coming from outside, hopefully they realize on all sides that the stakes for which they are fighting are relatively trivial in comparison," he said.

From a helicopter, Wolfowitz surveyed rubble-lined beaches



U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, left, walks through debris Monday as he visits a school destroyed by the Dec. 26 tsunami in Gintota, southern Sri Lanka.

where about 700 U.S. Marines are helping to clear debris and rebuild. So far, the U.S. government has sent \$38 million to the island in emergency aid. Wolfowitz said Sri Lanka was

Wolfowitz said Sri Lanka was further along than Indonesia in starting to rebuild, and the U.S. military may soon leave.

"We don't want to stay any longer than we are really needed," Wolfowitz said. "I think the need for this kind of military support is going away quite quickly."

Mesic wins election in Croatia

The Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia — Croatia's President Stipe Mesic was back at work on Monday, the morning after overwhelmingly winning a second term in a runoff election and promising to align this ex-Yugoslav country more closely with the West.

Mesic, 70, won 66 percent of the vote Sunday, the state-run Electoral Commission said after nearly all votes were counted.

His conservative rival, the Cabinet minister in charge of families and war veterans, Jadranka Kosor, garnered 34 percent.

Croatian newspapers called the vote "Mesic's triumph." Croatia, which gained independence only 13 years ago, "has

dence only 13 years ago, "has passed a long way in building its democracy and ... that's why we're now before the doors of the European Union," Mesic said. He also offered a conciliatory

He also offered a conciliatory hand to the governing Croatian Democratic Union.



Taking their message to the street



Italians who bought bonds issued by Argentina and consumer advocates hold signs and wave flags and wave flags

Panel says WTO members should change some rules

The Associated Press

GENEVA — World Trade Organization members should consider overhauling the way they hold negotiations in the body that sets the rules of global commerce, a panel of leading experts said Monday

udy, commissioned by WTO Director-General Supacha Pantichpakid, also raised concerns the property of the prope

Supachai commissioned the report in 2003. The eight-member independent panel that wrote it was led by Peter Sutherland, first head of the WTO when it was created in 1995 out of the looser General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, or GATT.

The panel was composed largely of key academics from countries, ranging from Ghana to the United States.

The 148-nation WTO is at a cru-

cial stage in its short history, Supachai noted.

The past decade was marked by the high-profile collapse of its ministerial meeting in Seattle in 1999 and the start of sometimes violent street protests by the burgeoning anti-globalization move-

The failure in Seattle was followed by a successful accord on launching global trade liberalization talks at Doha, Qatar, in 2001. But member governments were unable to spur those talks two years later at a meeting in Cancum, Mexico, largely because of clashes over farm trade concession.

WTO members currently make decisions by consensus — in theory giving the biggest, richest and the smallest, poorest members the same power. But the report said the consensus approach is overused, even in purely procedural matters.

The report urged the WTO's ruling General Council to adapt the rules so that "a member blocking a measure which otherwise has very broad consensus support shall only block such consensus if it declares in writing, with reasons included, that the matter is one of vital national interest to it."

Thailand to broadcast prison life

BANGKOK, Thailand — Thailand said Monday it will make live Internet broadcasts of life behind prison walls — including convicts' last moments before execution — in a bid to deter lawbreakers, especially a burgeoning number of drug dealers.

Though no date has been fixed to begin the Web broadcasts, cameras have already been installed at Bangkwang maximum security prison on the outskirts of Bangkok, which houses more than 6,000 inmates. Nearly 1,000 are sentenced to death, and 65 are awaiting execution with no appeals pending.

Woman gets prison for using rape drug on men

LONDON — A woman who used the date-rape drug Rohypnol to drug wealthy men and rob them of their expensive clothes and accessories was jailed for five years Monday.

Selina Hakki, who went to nightclubs and used the lure of sex to secure invitations to the mens' homes, where she spiked their drinks, is believed to be the first woman to be found guilty of using Rohypnol to drug men in Britain.

From The Associated Press

Report: Developing nations in need of promised funds

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — In the coming decade, more than 500 million people can escape from poverty and tens of millions can avoid certain death if the United States, Japan and other rich countries keep their promises to vastly increase development aid to the world's poorest countries, a U.N.-sponsored report said Monday.

The report spells out the investments needed to meet U.N. goals adopted by world leaders at the Milennium Summit in 2000 to tackle poverty, hunger and disease mainly in African and Asian countries where 1 billion people live on a dollar a day or less and 1.8 billion more live on just \$2 adv.

"The system is not working right now — let's be clear," said Professor Jeffrey Sachs, head of the U.N. anti-poverty effort and lead author of the report. "There's a tremendous imbalance of focus on the issues of war and peace, and less on the dying and suffering of the poor who have no voice."

"The overwhelming reality on our planet is that impoverished people get sick and die for lack of access to basic practical means that could help keep them alive and do more than that — help them achieve livelihoods and escape from poverty," said Sachs, who heads the Earth Institute at Columbia University.

As an example, he said, providing nets to cover beds and keep out mosquitoes in impoverished African and Asian countries could save the lives of a million children this year who otherwise will die from ma-

Sachs was appointed by Secretary-General Kofi

Annan in 2002 to head the Millennium Project and develop a plan to meet the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Annan is expected to use the report to help prepare his own recommendations to world leaders who will be attending a follow-up summit in September that will also tackle U.N. reform.

The 3,000-page report by a team of 265 experts, "Investing In Development," said the poorest countries don't have the resources to meet the goals. They include halving the number of people living on a dollar a day and halving the number of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation.

But the resources needed to meet the goals are within the means of the world's richest nations and their \$30 trillion economy — \$12 trillion just in the United States, Sachs said.

In 1970, the world's nations agreed to provide 0.7 percent of their gross national income for development assistance. So far, only five countries have met or surpassed the target — Demmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. Six others have made commitments to reach the target by 2015.

— Belgium, Finland, France, Ireland, Spain and Brit-ain— and the report urged all developed countries

to set similar timetables.

The United States right now only spends about 0.15 percent of its GDP on development aid, though President Bush has increased the amount.

If the millennium goals are achieved by 2015, "more than 500 million people will be lifted out of extreme poverty. More than 300 million will no longer suffer from hunger. ... Hundreds of millions more women and girls will go to school," it said. "If the goals are not met, millions will die who would other-



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IN THE STATES

Report: U.S. conducting secret missions in Iran

WASHINGTON - Since at least last summer, the United States has conducted "secret reconnaissance missions" inside Iran in an effort to identify three dozen or more suspected nuclear, chemical and missile sites that could be destroyed with airstrikes and commando raids, according to a report Sunday in The New Yorker maga-

The existence of the missions, described in an article by veteran journalist Seymour M. Hersh, was not attributed to any source or document

Hersh's article quoted an unnamed government consultant with close ties to the Pentagon saying, "The civilians in the Pentagon want to go into Iran and destroy as much of the military infrastructure as pos-

A senior White House aide — without citing any specific point of contention — de-

Pentagon denies claim, says article is 'riddled with errors of fundamental fact'

"I've seen excerpts of this story," said White House spokesman Dan Bartlett, appearing on CNN's "Late Edition." "I think it's riddled with inaccuracies, and I don't believe that some of the conclusions he's drawing there are based on fact

In a statement made Monday, Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita said the article is "riddled with errors of fundamental " and denies that high-level meetings Hersh reports in the article ever happened. The article "reflects poorly on Mr. Hersh and "The New Yorker." Di Rita

Rartlett said President Rush is using di plomacy to persuade the Iranian regime

"We're working with our European allies to help convince the Iranian government to not pursue weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons," Bartlett said. "It's critical that the entire world focus on this issue. It is a threat that we have to take seriously.

Speculation about Bush's intentions toward Iran is likely to heighten as his administration enters its second term this week In his State of the Union address three vears ago. Bush alleged that Iran, along with North Korea and Iraq, formed an "axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world

Bush, in that speech, said Iran was "ag-

struction while exporting terrorism.

Leaders of the Iranian government have said the nation has been interested only in developing nuclear power to generate elec-tricity. On Nov. 14. Iran announced that it would suspend all aspects of its uranium-enrichment program in exchange for incentives offered by European nations on trade and peaceful nuclear technology.

The next day the International Atomic Energy Agency said its inspectors had un-covered no new evidence of concealed nuclear activities or an atomic weapons program in Iran.

In Tehran on Sunday, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told The Associated Press that environmental samples taken from a military complex over the weekend U.N. nuclear inspectors would prove that Iran's program is for peaceful purposes and not the making of weapons.

Stripes Washington editor Patrick Dickson contrib-uted to this report.

Poll: Americans hopeful about Bush's second term

BY WILL LESTER The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A majority of Americans say they feel hope ful about President Bush's second

have a generally positive view of him personally, but they also express condoubts about Trag.

People likely to identify Iraq as the top priori-

ty for Bush, an Associated Press poll found. But more than half wondered whether a stable gov-ernment can be established there. After winning re-election, Bush

is preparing to pursue an ambitious agenda that includes efforts to change Social Security, federal tax laws and medical malpractice Ahead of Bush's inauguration

on Thursday, six in 10 people said they felt hopeful about his second term and in response to a separate question 47 percent said they were worried. Most said they

were neither angry nor excited about his final four years in office. Iraq was cited most often as the

president's highest priority, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

Some 53 percent of those questioned said it is unlikely Iraq will have a stable government.

"Iraq remains the kind of thing that could completely take over the term, if the situation gets a lot worse," said Charles Franklin, a nolitical scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, "It's a good idea for the president to push new domestic proposals. He has to find a way to have the whole second term be about more

than just Iraq.' More than 1,350 U.S. troops have died in Iraq. Deadly attacks

by insurgents are on the rise as the Jan. 30 elections near "It's best to be hopeful about

the next four years," said Kellie Shanahan, a Republican and a teacher from Wilmington, N.C. "If we're not, it won't be good for our country.

Public perceptions of the president's personal strengths are his biggest asset today

Nearly two-thirds of those polled described Bush as likable, strong and intelligent. A majority said he is dependable and honest



nds at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta commemorated the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday. Participating are, from left back row, Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., the Rev. Bernice Albertine King, Martin Luther King III, the Rev. Suzan D. Johnson Cook and Coretta Scott King; and, in front from left, Cantor Kimberly Goodfriend and Laura English Robinson. They sand "We Shall Overcome."

Atlanta celebrates MLK; son cites a legacy of peace and compassion

The Associated Press

ATLANTA - If he were alive now. Martin Luther King would be reacting to the sobering news emanating from overseas with a

message peace and compassion

his son said Monday. Α memorative

service marked Baptist Church. where King

King holiday

was preacher from 1960 until his assassination in 1968 at age 39 Thousands of people were expected to take part in an afternoon rally and march through downtown Atlanta Martin Luther King III asked

the congregation to remember his father's legacy of peace as America wages war in Iraq, and to remember his message of compassion in light of the tsunami disas-

"Let us respond to this challenge by reaching out to help our sisters and brothers who are suffering because of the tsunami he said.

Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss told the crowd at Ebenezer Baptist that the country is better off because of King's work.

"The dream of Dr. King will not be fulfilled until everyone who is uneducated is educated, everyone who is homeless has a roof over their head, and all who are hungry become fed." Chambliss

Rep. John Lewis, a Democrat, said King would have onnosed

the war in Iraq. "I believe he would be saying today, 'End the war, end the war in Iraq," Lewis said. "Bring our young men and our young women

King, born in Atlanta Jan. 15, 1929 would have turned 76 on Saturday.

In Washington, President Bush planned to attend an event honoring King at the John F. Kennedy

Center for the Performing Arts. "Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

was a visionary American and a dedicated leader who believed deeply in liberty and dignity for every person," Bush said in a holiday proclamation. "His faith and courage continue to inspire America and the world.

Coast Guard searches for missing fisherman

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Two fishermen were killed and four others were missing in the choppy Bering Sea after two separate accidents on the opening day of the dangerous snow crab season.

The 92-foot Big Valley and the 134-foot Sultan went out after

snow crab amid stormy seas and up to 40 mph winds. The Kodiak-based Big Valley sank Saturday 70 miles west of St. Paul Island, about 750 miles west of Anchorage.

At least 34 whales die on N. Carolina beach

MANTEO, N.C. - Scientists and National Park Service workers were working to collect samples and clean up whale carcasses after 34 of the marine mammals beached themselves and either died or had to be euthanized.

Dozens of whales beached themselves early Saturday along a five-mile stretch of coastline near Oregon Inlet, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.



"Desperate Housewives" captured the award for best television series, musical or comedy. The cast members are, from left, Marcia Cross, Nicolette Sheridan, Felicity Huffman, Teri Hatcher and Eva Longoria.



Jamie Foxx won the award for best actor in a musical or comedy for his

with Rening



Hilary Swank, who appears in "Million Dollar Baby," and Leonardo DiCaprio, star of "The Aviator," each won

A 'Golden' night for Hollywood

'Aviator,' 'Sideways' take top film prizes as 'Housewives' scores on TV



"Arrested Development" star Jason Bateman won for best actor in a musical or comedy series. "It's a pretty tough town and it's tenuous at best and if you do a good job and if it goes perfectly, you get fired at the end of it and you have to find another one." he said.



William Shatner of "Boston Legal" won for best supporting actor in a series, miniseries or TV movie. "I'm ready to party," Shatner said after his win. "I have a 6:30 call tomorrow to be Denny Crane. So I

BY DAVID GERMAIN The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. - The Golden Globes set up an Academy Awards rematch between Hilary Swank and Annette Bening, while Jamie Foxx firmed up his Oscar front-runner status. And a win for ' Aviator" gave Martin Scorsese the edge for finally

coming away with a best picture win at the Oscars.

The Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator" was the big winner with three Globes, including best dramatic picture, but Sunday night's ceremony was a split decision for Scorsese, who lost the directing prize to Clint Eastwood for the boxing saga "Million Dollar Baby."

The road-trip comedy "Sideways" was named best musical or comedy film, while lead-acting hon-ors went to Swank for "Million Dollar Baby," Ben-ing for the theater farce "Being Julia," Foxx for the was named Ray Charles film biography "Ray" and Leonardo Di-Caprio as Hughes in "The Aviator."

Clive Owen and Natalie Portman won supporting-acting honors for the sex drama "Closer." Their wins were a bit surprising given that Morgan Freeman for "Million Dollar Baby" and Cate Blanchett for "The Aviator" had been viewed as likely favorites.

Foxx, considered the best actor favorite for the Oscars, which will be awarded Feb. 27, said backstage he was having the best night of his life, winning the prize for his uncanny re-creation of singer Charles,

"It's a beautiful thing for Ray and everything he leaves us," said Foxx, who won for best actor musical or comedy. Foxx had a record three Globe nominations going into Sunday but lost the other two, supporting movie actor for "Collateral" and TV movie or miniseries actor for "Redemption." Bening won the musical or comedy actress prize

for "Being Julia," playing a conniving 1930s stage

diva exacting vengeance on the dunlicitous men in her life. It was the first awards-worthy role Bening has had since "American Beauty" five years ago, when she was the front-runner but lost the Golden

Globe dramatic prize and the best actress Oscar to underdog Swank for "Boys Don't Cry Not wanting to jinx her Oscar chances, Bening sidestepped a question backstage at the Globes about what she would wear to the Oscars. "Trick

question," Bening quipped. Swank, playing a fighter whose life turns tragic, on the dramatic actress Globe for "Million Dollar Baby." She downplayed the potential Oscar rematch

'I don't really see it as competition." Swank said. "Annette's amazing, and she was so gracious to me five years ago when we were both nominated. She gave me good advice and she was gracious, and she's an inspiration.

"I think it's just unfortunate that things are seen as winners and losers, because in the end, the performances all speak for themselves and make everyone, I think, a winner. I'm just honored to have my name mentioned with her."

The Globes serve as the most prominent ceremo

ny in Hollywood's pregame show leading up to the Academy Awards. Globes are presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, whose small membership of about 90 people pales compared with the nearly 6,000 film professionals eligible to vote for the Oscars.

Yet the Globes historically serve as a solid forecast that helps set the odds for subsequent film honors. Golden Globe winners gain attention that can put them on the inside track for prizes from acting, di-

recting and other filmmaking guilds - momentum that often sticks with them right through Oscar



'Million Dollar Baby" star Clint Eastwood won for best director.

The winners

Motion Pictures Picture, Drama: "The Avia-

Actor, Drama: Leonardo Di-

Caprio, "The Aviator" Actress, Drama: Hilary Swank, "Million Dollar Baby Picture, Musical or Come-

dy: "Sideways" Actor, Musical or Comedy:

Jamie Foxx, "Ray"

Actress, Musical or Comedy: Annette Bening, "Being Julia"

Supporting Actor: Clive Owen, "Closer"

Supporting Actress: Natalie Portman, "Closer"

Director: Clint Eastwood, "Million Dollar Baby" Screenplay: Alexander Payne

and Jim Taylor, "Sideways Original Score: Howard Shore, "The Aviator"

Original Song: "Old Habits Die Hard" from "Alfie," by Mick Jagger and David A.

Foreign Language: "The Sea Inside," Spain

Stowart

Television

Drama Series: "Nip/Tuck."

Actor, Drama: Ian McS-

hane, "Deadwood" Actress, Drama: Mariska

Hargitay, "Law & Order: Spe-cial Victims Unit" Musical or Comedy Series: "Desperate Housewives,

Actor, Musical or Comedy: ason Bateman, "Arrested De-

velopment" Actress Musical or Comedy: Teri Hatcher, "Desperate

Housewives Miniseries or TV Movie: The Life and Death of Peter

Sellers," HBO Actor, Miniseries or TV Movie: Geoffrey Rush, "The

Life and Death of Peter Sell-Actress, Miniseries or TV

Movie: Glenn Close, "The Lion

Supporting Actor, Series, Miniseries or TV Movie: William Shatner, "Boston Legal" Supporting Actress, Series, Miniseries or TV Movie: Anjelica Huston, "Iron Jawed An-

Cecil B. DeMille Award Robin Williams

Some quotes from onstage and backstage at Sunday night's Golden Globe Awards:

who died last year

"What comes into mind at the moment is, like, Mae West, although I probably wouldn't do it, you know. I'm a little too old for that role now. Maybe Carol Channing

- Johnny Depp, when asked if there's any role he's itching to play

"If any of the actors are having difficult vowel movements, she's the person."

- Geoffrey Rush, paying tribute to his voice coach

"It was the only thing I still had clean.

Rolfe Kent, a nominee for the original score of "Side-ways," explaining why he wore

"I used to think it was corny when people would say people were looking down on you. And I didn't really. I didn't believe it. But I got a feeling."

- An emotional Jamie Foxx, thanking his grandmother Estelle, who helped raise him and who recently died

"I also want to thank you for having Prince, William Shatner, Mick Jagger and Puff Daddy on the same stage. That is a sign of the apocalypse"

— Robin Williams

-The Associated Press



A dental office X-ray shows a four-inch nail embedded in Patrick Lawler's skull. The nail was removed Thursday at Littleton Adventist Hospital in Denver.

Nail found embedded in man's skull

BY ERIN GARTNER
The Associated Press

LITTLETON, Colo. — A dentist found the source of the toothache Patrick Lawler was complaining about on the roof of his mouth: a four-inch nail the construction worker had unknowingly embedded in his skull six days earlier.

A nail gun backfired on Lawler, 23, on Jan. 6 while working in Breckenridge, a ski resort town in

the central Colorado mountains.

The tool sent a nail into a piece

of wood nearby, but Lawler didn't realize a second nail had shot through his mouth, said his sister, Lisa Metcalse.

Following the accident, Lawler had what he thought was a minor toothache and blurry vision. On Wednesday, after painkillers and ice didn't ease the pain, he went to a dental office where his wife, Katerina, works.

"We all are friends, so I thought the (dentists) were joking ... then the doctor came out and said

'There's really a nail,' " Katerina Lawler said. "Patrick just broke down. I mean, he had been eating ice cream to help the swelling."

He was taken to a suburban Denver hospital, where he underwent a four-hour surgery. The nail had plunged 1½ inches into his brain, barely missing his right eve. Metcalse said.

"This is the second one we've seen in this hospital where the person was injured by the nail gun and didn't actually realize the nail had been embedded in their

skull," neurosurgeon Sean Markev told KUSA-TV in Denver.

key told KUSA-TV in Denver.

Lawler was recovering Sunday in the hospital, where he was expected to spend several more days.

days.

Despite his lack of medical insurance and hospital bills between \$80,000 and \$100,000, Katerina Lawler said her husband is in good spirits.

"The doctors said, 'If you're going to have a nail in the brain, that's the way you want it to be,' " she said. "He's the luckiest guy,

Students dig find of mammoth on campus

BY TERRY HILLIG St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Students at Principia College in Elsah don't have to trek hundreds or thousands of miles to participate in one of the country's most significant paleon-tological digs.

In fact, they don't even have to leave campus. The 17,500-year-old bones of a woolly mammoth known affectionately as "Benny" (after the man who found him) are being carefully excavated in the middle of the Principia campus, yards from domito-

ries and academic buildings.
Principia employee Benny
White thought he had found something significant one spring day
in 1999 when his backhoe hit a
piece of white material while he
was excavating for a manhole between two dormitories, Rackham
Court and Gehner House.

White was right. Faculty members quickly identified the object as the tooth of a mammoth. Another bone was visible in the pit. The professors knew they had something interesting but they were unsure just how interesting it might be — whether the objects



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/KRT

Principia College student Katie Crocker takes a last look at Benny the mammoth as volunteers prepare to cover the dig site with plastic and insulation for the winter.

were an isolated find or part of a larger set of skeletal remains.

But they were sure of one thing. The excavation would be carried out carefully and in a way that involved and educated Principia students in the process. The pit was refilled to protect the remains until that could be arranged.

"We didn't go back to the site until the spring of 2002," said Janis Treworgy, who supervises the mammoth dig and teaches classes that are based on it. As a geologist, Treworgy was familiar with soils and rock. She enlisted the help of experts in paleontology — the study of ancient plants and animals — and experts on loess (pronounced "luss"), the type of soil that covered Benny.

A course based on the mammoth was developed, and the first class was offered during the spring quarter of 2002. Since then, students have care-

fully uncovered about 50 percent of the mammoth's skeleton.

The tusks are still in the ground, attached to the skull. Tre-worgy doubts that the mandible, or lower iaw, will be found.

'Fear Factor Live' show to open at theme parks

BY GARY GENTILE The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Apparently fear is not a factor when it comes to melding a TV reality show with a theme park attraction.

An audience-participation show based on the NBC show 'Fear Factor' will open in May at the Universal Studios theme parks in Hollywood and Orlando, Fla., the company said.

The "Fear Factor Live" show is an example of the kind of corporate "synergy" resulting from NBC's purchase of Universal in 2003. The deal combined the television network with Universal's movie studio, cable channels and theme parks.

"We've always looked at 'Fear Factor' as kind of a theme park ride on television," NBC Universal Television Group chief Jeff Zucker said. "It made sense to extend that brand into the theme parks."

The attraction will pit theme

park guests against each other in a series of extreme stunts that will replicate the physical and culinary challenges seen on the TV series, the company said.

series, the company said.

The exact nature of the stunts has not been disclosed, although participants could be hung from harnesses and challenged to eat unappetizing concoctions, the company said. But contestants

will not eat live bugs, as they do on TV. "We worked closely with the producers of the TV show to

producers of the TV show to come up with a slate of stunts and challenges," said Scott Trowbridge, executive vice president of creative development at Universal Parks and Resorts.

"We are going to put our guests in situations where they will come face to face with nasty, weird stuff," he said. "Are we going to go as gross as the show? No. But you don't have to resort to live bugs to test people's limits." The attraction will be held in a

The attraction will be held in a theater that holds about 1,800 people. Six people will be chosen to compete while other audience members will be given roles, such as shooting water or air at contestants or controlling some of the obstacles on stage.

EXCHANGE RATES

Dollar buys (Jan. 17) British pound (Jan. 17)	€0.743
British pound (Jan. 17)	\$1.9
Japanese ven (Jan. 18)	100.0
South Korean won (Jan. 15)	1.010.0
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37
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Denmark (Krone)	5.622
Egypt (Pound)	5.954
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Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.79
Hungary (Forint)	186.1
Egypt (Pound) \$1.3203 Hong Kong (Dollar) Hungary (Forint) Iceland (Krona) Israel (Shekel)	61.0
Israel (Shekel)	4.349
Norway (Krone) Philippines (Peso) Saudi Arabia (Riyal) Singapore (Dollar) South Korea (Won) Switzerland (Franc)	6.183
Philippines (Peso)	55.6
Saudi Arabia (Rival)	3.750
Singapore (Dollar)	1.63
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Cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Time or money?

The Associated Press

The workplace contest between time and money has raged for years. An employee survey suggests money may be starting to lose that battle.

Nearly 40 percent of 4,600 full-time workers said they would choose more time off work than a \$5,000 annual pay hike. That was an almost 20 percent jump from three years ago when Salary.com asked the same question, and represented a significant shift in employee thinking.

"Workers are saying they need a break from the stresses caused by increasing hours, reduced staff and the push for more productivity," said Tim Driver, a senior vice president at the Needham, Mass-based software company.

"It's also possible that following several years of layoffs and cost-cutting, an increasing number of workers are less inclined to believe that placing work above personal concerns will pay off in career advancement and pay."

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News and Editorial

News afto Editorial Director DOUG CLAWSON, Managing Editor ROBB GRINDSTAFF, Associate Editor RAM AMRREIN, Europe Bureau Chief SCOTT BURGESS, Middle East Bureau Chief JOE GROMELSKI, Electronic Edition Editor ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS:

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Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480, APO AE 09211 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim.

FAX: DSN 349-8416; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416 E-MAIL: News: pews@mail.orb

E-MMLR. News. news@mail estripses.osd.mil Lettlers: lettlers/@mail estripses.osd.mil CENTRAL 0FFICE: 529 14th Sheet NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Phone DSN 312-783-0900 or civ. (+1) (202) 761-0900. Fax (+1) (202) 761-0890 EUTORAL DIFECTOR: David Mazzella, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 330, Washington, DC 20045-1301. Phone DSN 312-763-0945 or civ. (+1) (202) 761-0845.

azzarellad@stripes.osd.mil

OMBUDSMAN: Joe Ungaro. Send comments to: Ombudsman, S and Stripes, \$29 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, 20045-1301. Phone civilian (+1) (401) 364-6032; (+1) (401) 364-8696;

or e-mail: ombudsman@stripes.osd.mil.

How to call us Editor: DSN 349-8237: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Letters: DSN 349-8400: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601400 Sports: DSN 349-8225: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601225 Circulation: DSN 349-8437; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437 Advertising: DSN 349-8335/443; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601335/443

News Bureaus

GERMANY (Country code +49)

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Bureau editor: Patrick Dickson, 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301; tel. (+1) (202) 761-0859; e-mail: dicksonp@stripes.osd.mi

ucwsunpigesuipes.osd.mil Lisa Burgess, tel civ. (+1) (703) 692-1875; Jon Anderson. tel ci 17(03) 695-9524; and Leo Shane, 529 14th Street NW, St Washington DC 20045-1301; tel civ. (+1) (202) 761-1183; v. (+1) (202) 761-0890, e-mail: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil soni@stripes.osd.mil and shanel@stripes.osd.mil

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The futile search for a hard number

BY ROCKY LOPES

t's the disaster we'll remember for a lifetime. Already, most of us outside Florida have forgotten Hurricane What's-Its-Name and its three followers, which devastated the state late last summer. Until reminded of it recently, how many remembered the deadly earthquake in the Iranian city of Bam just a year ago? But I'll wager that 5, 10, 15 years from now, the single word "tsunami" will trigger in any who hear it a near-total recall of the fearful events of Dec. 26, 2004.

That's because the scale of death in that catastrophe, occurring without warning and in a matter of minutes, and striking so many nations, has catapulted it into a class of its own. In my experience, the single factor that most underscores the significance of any disaster is the number of lives it takes. News reports of constantly changing, rapidly rising numbers in South Asia have made the deaths hit home, and our psyche is responding to the further suffering we know these lost lives will cause

That's why we have such a deep-seated need to know how many people died in South Asia. That's why relatives of the victims search so desperately for information about what precisely happened to their loved ones. But adding to the grim tragedy is the one certainty that remains in the tsunami's wake: We will never know with absolute certainty how many died, or just what happened to the missing. All we will have is a gross estimate of the death toll.

How do you count the dead when so many of them may never be found? This is the di lemma facing those trying to gauge the true scope of the tsunami's destruction. Tallving the victims, matching names and bodies. tracking the missing and trying to pinpoint their fate is difficult after any disaster. But it's magnified in this instance by a number of factors.

First is the absence of any solid popula-tion count to start with. Not all countries have a formal and detailed census system like ours in the West. We're accustomed to the idea that each individual has an established identity that can be tracked through driver's licenses, credit cards and so on This is not the case in more than half of the tsunami-affected countries, where governments have difficulty reporting the number of people who were lost when they don't have reliable data on who was there in the first place.

You can count bodies, of course, but many tsunami victims, swept out to sea, will never be found. If you knew that someone was in a specific area affected by a disaster, and if you've tried to but can't reach that person, it's easy to draw a conclusion that the person was killed. But until a body can be found, or a reliable witness can report what happened to the individual, you can't be

As data analysis specialist Patrick Ball told National Public Radio this month, what we're counting in this case are "memories rather than bodies." Yet we may never even be able to collect all the necessary memories to discover all who are missing. Entire families and villages were wiped out, and there may not in some cases be anyone left to report missing people. That's why some speculate that the final tsunami death toll could be artificially low.

Ironically, it's likely that in the end there will be a more accurate count of foreign visitors who were killed than of natives, though it will take time. Tourists and temporary workers who enter a country legally are tracked at the port of entry by immigration officials. There are no records of where they go once in the country, but we're learning about the number of foreigners who were in the affected areas through credit card transactions, hotel registrations, transportation rentals and relatives or friends who have been calling their embassies.

Some of those reported as missing, though, may not actually be. Many may have been in one of the devastated countries, but nowhere near the areas hit by the tsunami. Sometimes, more than one person will report the same individual missing, who will then be listed multiple times.

Another complicating factor is the sheer number of countries involved. The tsunami directly affected 12 nations, but each one is reporting its own data. There's no single organization in the world that collects and reports casualty figures after a disaster. International organizations rely on individual country reports to arrive at estimates of the dead and missing. Depending on the timing of the report, different agencies will report different numbers, so the death toll figures may vary considerably.

What's more, each country has different methods for reporting casualties. Some countries will report counts of both the dead and those missing, but will not count as dead someone reported missing until they find a body or get some alternate confirmation of the person's fate. Other countries use more generalized methods to count casualties. Thailand and Indonesia are using estimates of village populations from previous informal census figures and subtracting the number of estimated survivors to arrive at an estimate of the deaths. Indonesia is also estimating the number of bodies in mass graves and multiplying by the number of mass grave sites.

Then there's the problem of official and unofficial sources of data, which can sow confusion and anxiety. This was the case here at home after Sept. 11, 2001. Immediately after the attacks, media reports indicated that there could have been more than 10,000 people killed in the World Trade Center, based on the numbers who worked there. The government issued no casualty numbers until deaths could actually be con-

firmed. When they were, the initial estimates were found to be too high.

That was a blessing, but often, the official

and unofficial numbers can't be reconciled. What's difficult for people to accept is that information collection after any disaster anywhere, but particularly in less developed countries, takes time, and that information changes rapidly. In an age of instant communication, we expect "breaking news" when major events happen. But after the tsunami, many areas were cut off from phones. radios or satellite links. With no communications, governments just didn't know how many people were affected. Emergency workers worry more about areas we don't hear from right after a disaster than the areas we do.

Once officials knew that communications were disrupted, the only way to know how many people had been killed or injured was to inspect the affected areas. It took hours to get to some areas near major cities, and days to get to others. Once searchers arrived and established communications, they sent reports, including initial estimates of missing and dead people. Even more than a week later, some remote areas had not been reached

Every day still, the numbers change, and they will keep doing so. Now, in addition to the direct deaths caused by the tsunami. there are indirect deaths to consider -those due to heart attack, trauma, injury. water-borne or communicable disease, all triggered by the event.

And the figures affect us. They leave a sense of loss and waste, a gnawing feeling of impotence and a stark, and haunting, realizan: Every life counts. But sometimes, tragically, not every life lost can be counted.

Rocky Lopes, former manager of disaster educa-tion with the American Red Cross, has more than 25 years of experience in the field of disaster preparedness and response. He is now an indepen-dent consultant specializing in public education, aining and outreach. This column first appeared
The Washington Post.

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Via fax: [Country code +49] (0) 6155/601395; DSN 349-8395

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Doonesbury



AS YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN UNCLEAR WHETHER THIS CLASS WOULD BE VIABLE. BUT NOW, FOLLOWING THE GONZALES CONFIRMATION, WE'RE GOOD TO GO:





BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

A nation full of faith and religious illiterates

BY STEPHEN PROTHERO

he sociologist Peter Berger once remarked that if India is the most religious country in the world and Sweden the least, then the United States is a nation of Indians ruled by Swedes. Not anymore.

With a Jesus lover in the Oval Office and a faith-based party in control of both houses of Congress, the United States is undeniably a nation of believers ruled by the same.

Things are different in Europe, and not just in Sweden. The Dutch are four times less likely than Americans to believe in mira cles, hell and biblical inerrancy. The euro does not trust in God. But here is the paradox: Although Americans are far more religious than Europeans, they know far less about religion.

In Europe, religious education is the rule from the elementary grades on. So Austrians. Norwegians and the Irish can tell you about the Seven Deadly Sins or the Five Pillars of Islam. But, according to a 1997 poll, only 1 out of 3 U.S. citizens is able to name the most basic of Christian texts, the four Gospels, and 12 percent think Noah's wife was Joan of Arc. That paints a picture of a nation that believes God speaks in Scripture but that can't be bothered to read what he has to say

U.S. Catholics, evangelicals and Jews have been lamenting for some time a crisis of religious literacy in their ranks. But the dangers of religious ignorance are by no means confined to those worried about catechizing their children or cultivating the next generation of clergy

When Americans debated slavery, almost exclusively on the basis of the Bible, people of all races and classes could follow the debate. They could make sense of its references to the runaway slave in the New Testament book of Philemon and to the year of jubilee, when slaves could be freed, in the Old rare American who can engage with any sophistication in biblically inflected arguments about gay marriage, abortion or stem cell research.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, President Bush has been telling us that "Islam is a religion of peace." while evangelist Franklin Graham (Billy's son) has insisted otherwise. Who is right? Americans have no way to tell because they know virtually nothing about Islam. Such ignorance imperils our public life, nutting citizens in the thrall of talking

How did this happen? How did one of the most religious countries in the world become a nation of religious illiterates? Religious congregations are surely at fault Churches and synagogues that once inculcated the "fourth R" are now telling the faithful stories "ripped from the headlines" rather than teaching them the Ten Commandments or parsing the Sermon on the Mount (which was delivered, as only 1 in 3 Americans can tell you, by Jesus). But most of the fault lies in our elementary and secondary schools

In a majority opinion in a 1963 church-state case (Abington vs. Schempp) Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark wrote, "It might well be said that one's education is not complete without a study of comparative religion ... and its relationship to the advance of civilization." If so, the education of nearly every public school student in the nation is woefully inadequate.

Because of misunderstandings about the First Amendment, religious studies are seldom taught in public schools. When they are, instruction typically begins only in high school and with teachers not trained in the subtle distinction between teaching religion (unconstitutional) and teaching about religion (essential).

Though state educational standards no longer ignore religion as they did a decade ago, coverage of religion in history and so-



cial science textbooks is spotty at best. Charles Haynes senior scholar at the First Amendment Center in Virginia., said: "It is as if we got freedom of religion in 1791 and

then we were free from religion after that." Now that the religious right has triumphed over the secular left, every politician seems determined to get religion They're all asking "What Would Jesus Do?" about the war in Iraq, gay marriage, pov-

erty and Social Security. And though the ACLU may rage, it is not un-American to bring religious reasoning into our public debates. In fact, that has been happening ever since George Washington put his hand on a Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution.

What is un-American is to give those debates over to televangelists of either the sec-

ular or the religious variety, to absent our selves from the discussion by ignorance.

A few days after Sept. 11, a turbaned Indian-American man was shot and killed in Arizona by a bigot who believed the man's dress marked him as a Muslim. But what killed Balbir Singh Sodhi (who was not a Muslim but a Sikh) was not so much bigotry as ignorance. The moral of his story is not just that we need more tolerance. It is that Americans - of both the religious and the secular variety — need to understand reli-gion. Resolving in 2005 to read for yourself either the Bible or the Quran (or both) might not be a bad place to start.

Stephen Prothero teaches at Boston University and is author of "American Jesus: How the Son of God Became a National Icon." This column first anneared in the Los Angeles Times.

Delaying election would turn back the clock in Iraq

BY KARIM KHUTAR ALMUSAWI

ith only a little more than two weeks to go before Jan. 30, there are still some people who want to postpone the Iraqi elections. But that would be a terrible mistake.

For one thing, the Iraqi people are longing for democracy after decades of dictatorship and oppression, and they are not inclined to wait much longer. This was confirmed by a survey conducted by the International Republican Institute in December, showing that 67.4 percent of Iraqis support going forward with the elections as scheduled. According to Iraq's independent election com mittee, 7,471 candidates — representing 75 political entities, 27 organizations and nine coalitions - plan to participate in the national assembly elections.

Don't be fooled by propagandists: This election process - to create a transitional national assembly that will begin to build durable democratic institutions and draft a constitution - is for the benefit of all. No effort has been made by authorities to stop anyone from participating, so there is no "Sunni crisis" as some people are suggesting.

Simply speaking, the new Iraq will be for all Iraqis and not for any one particular group, faction or religion. It will represent all the Arabs, Kurds, Turkmens and Assyrians, and any other minorities or religions.

No one wants injustice or inequality except the terrorists. That was the old policy under the racist regime of Saddam Hussein a policy that led to mass graves all over the country - and the terrorists today would like to re-create it.

You have to ask yourself whose interest is served by the call to postpone the elections, desnite the intense efforts of the indenendent electoral commission, despite the support of the main Iraqi parties and institutions, despite the clear desire of friendly nations and the United Nations to have the elections held on time. Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani's representative said on Dec. 31: "The issue of the election in Iraq is a decisive matter for all Iragis. There is a consensus on holding it. Any attempt to postpone it means causing an unimaginable crisis.

And what is to be gained by putting off the election? The deteriorating security conditions won't vanish within the coming weeks or months, even after the elections. In fact, holding elections and putting a popular, legitimate democratic government in place is the best way to help stabilize and secure the country - not the other way around.

Some have suggested calling a "reconciliaon convention" before the election is held. But reconciliation has been reached already; the only ones outside the circle are the Baathists. And reconciling with the Baathists is out of the question. It is not only against the interest of the Kurds and Shiites to reconcile with the Baathists, but it is inst the interest of most Sunnis as well.

The call by some for a boycott of the elections as long as our nation remains occupied is also misguided. The reality of the matter is that the multinational forces in Iraq are an absolute necessity for the moment

But yes, of course, we will support efforts by the newly elected government to set a schedule for the withdrawal of these forces once they are no longer needed.

Holding the elections is our only choice, and it should be done on schedule. To put them off would be to give in to a terrible clan-destine plot that might well lead to canceling them forever. This would lead Iraq back to

where we were under the former regime.

Karim Khutar Almusawi is the representative in Washington of the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a leading Shilte political party. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Mallard Fillmore

...THE MATTER NOW A SUBCOMMITTEE OF ITS GOES BEFORE THE "COUNCIL ON BLAMING UNITED NATIONS AMERICA FOR "COUNCIL ON CALLING ABGOLUTELY , AMERICA STINGY." EVERYTHING ... OF he Was Fast our Sundants for World 6005 MISTOR



A tantalizing taste

Mannheim's museums leave you wanting more

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS Stars and Stripes

he museums of Mannheim, Germany, can be both fantastic and frustrating. Fantastic in what

they exhibit, frustrating because little of it is labeled in English. They are also a delight in their variety. but a disappointment in what you cannot

currently see. The museums are the Landesmuseum für Technik und Arbeit (State Museum for Technology and Work) and the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museums. Another, although not a museum in the traditional sense, but a good place to spend a winter day, is the Kunsthalle, Mannheim's art exhibition

The Landesmuseum describes itself as living history. It traces technology in southwestern Germany from the 18th century to the present. The "living" aspect is that while visitors can look at the exhibits, they can also watch demonstrations of how the technology worked. Presses print, mills grind, looms weave and a steam locomo tive pulls a train through the museum grounds. The museum's restaurant is designed as a working-class pub of the early 20th century.

The disappointment is that everything on the museum's six floors is labeled in German only. If you don't know German you are at a loss to know what some of the displays are. There is a brochure that gives you the gist of what the museum is about, but no detail. Still, the Landesmuse



The Kunsthalle Mannheim has a permanent collection, but also features big temporary



MICHAEL ARPAMS/Stare and Strings

This statue outside the Landesmuseum für Technik und Arbeit (State Museum for Technology and Work) suggests rail, flight, industry and technology.

um gives a good look at some of the contraptions invented in the past 300 years.

The Reiss-Engelhorn-Museums are two museums named for their addresses. The city's streets divide it into grids, each with a letter and number. Museum C5 in the historic Zeughaus building is dedicated to art history, theater and music history and photography. Across the street is Museum D5, with displays on archaeology, natural history, ethnology and non-European cultures

Unfortunately, Museum C5 is closed until January 2007 for renovation, and except for a floor with exhibits on early man and some natural history exhibits much of D5's permanent exhibits are also

The museum makes up for this though, with two outstanding temporary exhibits On the ground floor is "Pompeii, the Final Hours, August 24, 79 AD," with original exhibits from Pompeii, Herculaneam and Oplontis. The show lasts until April 17, so if you are not planning a

trip to southern Italy in the near future, plan one to Mannheim for this evhibit

On the top floor of D5 open until Feb. 24. is an exhibition of the works of German photographer Robert Häusser. One of the great contemporary photographers, the show features his work from 1938 to the present. As a caution, there is some nudity in the show

There is also nudity in the temporary show at the Kunsthalle, but if you are interested in contempo rary painting and sculp-

ture, this is a show you won't want to miss. It lasts until May 1. Yan Pei-Ming, Julian Schnabel, James Lloyd and Cecily Brown are just some of the artists shown at this exhibition, called "Direct Painting," The





Museum D5 of the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museums hosts "Pompeii, the Final Hours, August 24, 79 AD" until April.

Kunsthalle'as permanent collection with works by Otto Dix, Max Beckmann, Henri Matisse and Paul Cezanne.

estripes.osd.mil.

On the QT



Directions

The Landesmuseum für Technik und Arbeit is at the end of A-656 There is free parking at Friedensplatz behind the museum. To get to the Kunsthalle, stay on the same street (A-656 becomes Augustaanlage). When you come to the Wasserturm (water tower) on Friedrichsplatz, the hall is on the left. There is parking under the Wasserturm (1.50 euro per hour for the first two hours, 1 euro per hour after that).

The Reiss-Engelhorn-Museums is in downtown Mannheim at D5. At the Wasserturm, follow the traffic straight down to the Rathaus at E5 take a left and continue to Toulonplatz. There is a parking garage in front of the museum (same prices as at the Wasserturm).



The Landesmuseum is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays and German holidays

The Kunsthalle and the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museums are open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. All museums are closed on Mondays.



Costs

· Landesmuseum: 3 euros for adults, 2 euros for children and 6 euros for a family pass for the permanent exhibits. Entrance is free on Wednesday afternoons. Special exhibits cost extra

 The Kunsthalle: 2.10 euros for adults, 1 euro for children and 4.10 euros for a family ticket. Special shows, including "Direct Painting," costs 7 euros for adults, 5 euros for children and 5 euros for the family.

· Reiss-Engelhorn-Museum D5: 2.10 euros for adults, 1 euro for children and 4.10 euros for a family ticket to the permanent exhibits (only one floor at the moment). Free on Tuesdays. The admission for the Pompeii exhibit is 7 euros for adults, 6 euros for children and 13.50 euros for families. A combination ticket for the Pompeii and Häusser exhibits is 8 euros and 6 euros, respectively, family ticket the same as above.



Food

All three museums have cafés that offer food and drink



Information

The Web sites (in German) are: www.landesmuseum-mannheim.de; www.kunsthalle-mannheim.de and www.reiss-engelhorn-museen. de

— MICHAEL ABRAMS



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers Highs in the upper 30s. Wednesday lows in the lower 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with fog in the morning and mostly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs in the mid to upper 30s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 20s.

France: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 40s to mid 50s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the mid 30s to mid 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to

mid 30s. Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the mid 30s to mid 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 30s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy with fog in the morning and cloudy with isolated rainshowers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 30s. Wednesday lows in the mid 20s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Wednesday lows in the mid to upper 30s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to mid 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 40s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the 30s. Wednesday lows in the mid to upper 20s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain and snow mix. Highs in the mid 30s to lower 40s. Wednesday lows in the 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 50s in the North and mid 60s to lower 70s in the South. Wednesday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s. Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

lower 40s.

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil



THE UNITED STATES TODAY

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MIDEAST

New Delhi 67/39

Mazar-e-Sharif 42/21

51/32

Karac 75/54

51/29

58/34 .

41/36

63/37



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Anti-obesity program

DC WASHINGTON
The vending machine trade association is launching an anti-obesity campaign to encourage healthful food choices, hoping to fend off efforts to remove machines from schools and improve the industry's image as concerns grow about the fattening of America.

The program,
"Balanced for Life," is being unveiled at an event featuring pro
football Hall of Famer Lynn

Swann.

The effort by the National Automatic Merchandising Association includes a color-coded rating system for food sold in vending machines, indicating healthful choices and those that should be eaten in moderation.

The group hopes to influence public opinion by encouraging nutrition education and physical activity programs in schools and through media coverage, the association's Web site says.

New Quecreek accident

PA SOMERSET — A transformer explosion injured two men at the Quecreek Mine, where a celebrated rescue of nine trapped miners made international headlines. One of the injured miners also was part of the July 2002 rescue drama.

The state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration were trying to determine what caused the problem, which left the mine without power.

Twenty-two mines under-

Twenty-two miners underground at the time power was cut escaped without incident using their lamplights, said DEP spokeswoman Betsy Mallison. It wasn't immediately clear when power would be restored.

Mallison said the explosion was not inside the mine, but at a substation outside. The injured men suffered burns to their hands and faces, she said.

Tsunami affects well

RICHMOND — The South Asian earthquake that spawned deadly tsunami waves also shifted water levels by at least 3 feet in a geologically sensitive Virginia well some 9,600 miles away from the epicenter, researchers say.

The well near Christiansburg, which started oscillating about an hour after the magnitude 9.0 quake near Sumatra on Dec. 26, is particularly sensitive to movements in the earth and is monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey.

David Nelms, a groundwater specialist with the USGS in Richmond, saw the changes from his computer.

Suspected meth lab

AR RUSSELLVILLE — Police busted a restaurant they say doubled as a methamphetamine lab and quarantined food that may have been cooked with some of the same utensils used to produce drugs.

Police who raided the West

Main Cafe in Arkansas on Wednesday found methamphetamine in a room next to the kitchen, coffee filters with drug residue, and other ingredients used to make the drug, said Larry Johnson, director of the



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

district drug task force.

"We don't know how long this has been going on. Apparently, though, all the food in that building is kaput," said health inspector John Jones, who checked and passed the restaurant on Dec. 28.

Preacher collapses, dies

OVIEDO — A Presbyterian minister collapsed and died at the pulpit after saying "And when I go to heaven ...," his colleague said.

The Rev. Jack Arnold, 69, was nearing the end of his sermon at Covenant Presbyterian Church when he grabbed the podium before falling to the floor, said the Rev. Michael S. Beats, the church's associate pastor.

Before collapsing, Arnold quoted the 18th-century Bible scholar John Wesley who said, "Until my work on this earth is done, I am importal. But when my work for Christ is done... I go to be with Jesus," Beats said in a telephone interview.

Judges can right errors

NH CONCORD — New Hampshire courts have joined most of the nation's judicial systems that allow judges clear authority to correct legal mistakes made by their colleagues and lawyers.



New clock tower

A worker guides the final piece of the new clock tower at the van den Berg Learning Center on the State University of New York campus in New Paltz, N.Y. The tower, made by Kentucky-based Campbellsville Industries, is a replica of the clock tower that was built in 1932 but destroyed by fire in 1990. sought a new trial on his six stalking convictions, arguing that his trial judge gave the jury bad instructions. The state Supreme Court refused – not based on the instructions, but because neither the man nor his lawyer had raised the complaint at trial.

complaint at trial.

Until Nov. 1, court rules required lawyers to "preserve" a complaint at the trial level if they wanted to raise it later on appeal. Otherwise, defendants' only alternatives were to call their lawyers ineffective and seek new trials.

The new "plain error rule" applies to criminal and civil cases and is modeled on a federal rule. It allows a judge at any level of court to correct a mistake even if the parties didn't bring it to the judge's attention.

Jailhouse infections

PA PHILADELPHIA — A federal jury has awarded \$1.2 million to two former immates who developed abscess wounds from a drug-resistant skin infection that swept through a county jail in 2001 and 2002.

The jury ruled that Bucks County prison officials failed to get the men prompt medical treatment. Kevin Keller, 27, and Benjamin Martin, 23, said they begged for help for weeks as their infections

spread.
Martin said he suffered nerve damage in both legs after the infection rooted in his hip. Keller said prison staff ignored his requests for a doctor as the infection traveled through his body.

Public drinking law

FL JACKSONVILLE — A month before thousands of fans arrive in Jacksonville for the Super Bowl, a judge ruled the city's ban on drinking alcohol in nublic is unconstitutional.

Duval County Judge Charles
Cofer ruled that Jacksonville's law
has been selectively enforced and
gives too much authority to the
mayor to make exemptions.

The decision stems from a challenge to the arrest of three homeless men charged with drinking beer in the city's Treaty Oak Park, located in an area where Super Bowl fans will be allowed to drink.

Bowl fans will be allowed to drink. The park is inside an entertainment zone adopted by the city council in May. Beginning 18 days before the Feb. 6 Super Bowl, laws against open containers, noise pollution and outdoor alcohol sales on city property will be suspended in the zone.

Restocking sturgeon

NEW ORLEANS — More than 10,000 pallid sturgeon bred in hatcheries have been released into the lower Mississippi River basin as part of a multistate effort to save the ancient fish known for its shovel-shaped snout and armor-like plates.

Since October, state and federal biologists in Louisiana released 6,478 juvenile sturgeon into the Mississippi and 3,576 into waters that flow into the Atchafalaya and Red rivers. The bottom-dwelling pallid sturgeon, known as one of the ugliest and least understood creatures in the Missouri and Mississippi river systems, was placed on the federal endangered species list in 1990.



Dedicated fan Don Galla, from Altoona, Pa., watches the Pittsburgh Steelers play the New York Jets in an AFC divisional playoff game in Pittsburgh. The Steelers won 20-17.



Small but mighty Shiner, a 2-year-old Parson Russell terrier owned by Sharon and Mike Shea of Dodgeville, Wis., makes himself at home by jumping on the beds after checking in to the Wyndham Harbour Island Hotel for the AKC/Eu-kanuba National Championship dog show in Tampa, Fla.



Vigil for victims Aminda Kadir, center, of Silver Spring, Md., who is a native of Indonesia, and Sandra Ladds, right, of Arlington, Va., participate in a candlelight vigil for the tsunami victims at the Indonesian Embassy in Washington.



Sharing the road Petersburg, Alaska

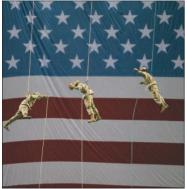
Chilled landscape

Jennifer Dupree, left, and her quarter horse named Cash wait for a snow bile to pass on the Twin Creeks logging road on Mitkof Island north of

Slippery jaunt

British ice climber Simon Yates

looks down to talk to his nine stu-



Delivering the game ball Soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas, rappel to deliver the game ball for the U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio. The game featured many of the top high school football players in the country.



An arctic-like scene is shown at Brighton Beach on the North Shore of Lake Superior in Duluth, Minn., as the temperature sat at -17 Fahrenheit.

Irked at 'crazy' bear

MONTPELIER — A company that sells cuddly Teddy bears through the mail has an-gered mental health advocates with a special item for Valentine's

The Vermont Teddy Bear Co. is featuring a 15-inch bear in a straitjacket. The \$69.95 stuffed animal is called the "Crazy for You Bear and comes with its own commitment papers.

"This hear was created in the spirit of Valentine's Day and as with all of our bears it was designed to be a lighthearted depiction of the sentiment of love," the company said in a statement.

Mental health advocates believe the bear is "a tasteless use of marketing that stigmatizes persons with mental illness," said Jerry Goessel, executive director of the Vermont chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

The company said it would discontinue the bear, but not before Feb. 14.

'We recognize that this is a sensi tive, human issue and sincerely apologize if we have offended anyone." the firm said.

Plane crash kills 1

KNOXVILLE — The president of a flying club died after his airplane crashed into the woods south of the city.

Pat Young, 52, and Dorothy Young, 45, of Seymour, Tenn., were the only occupants of a single-engine Beechcraft 35 Bonanza that went down on the shore of Fort Loudoun Lake, officials said.

The aircraft was hung up in the forest's canopy, and the Youngs were trapped for nearly 5½ hours before rescuers were able to lower them from the wreckage

Despite prolonged efforts to resuscitate him, Pat Young died minutes after he was removed from the plane. Dorothy Young was taken to the University of Tennessee Medical Center, where she was listed in serious condition.

Support for seat belts

NH CONCORD — The Associa-tion of New Hampshire Police Chiefs is supporting a mandatory seat-belt law for the first time.

The move follows a rise in highway deaths to 167 in 2004, up from 119 in 2003. New Hampshire is the only state that doesn't require seat belts for everyone in a car. Currently, only occupants 17 or younger have to buckle up

Big sweep for GOP

GA ATLANTA — Republicans completed their takeover of state government by taking the reins of the State House for the first time in 135 years. The Republican House completes a state sweep that began two years ago when the GOP won the governor's office and Senate. Rep. Glenn Richardson was elected the first GOP House Speaker since Reconstruction.

Too warm for winter

NEW YORK — Strike two, they're out.

City officials, who had post-poned the Winter Festival 2005 for a week because it's been too warm to make artificial snow, announced that the party is officially off until next year.

"To our dismay, Mother Nature wasn't on our side this year," Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Renene said in a statement.

"This was a difficult decision to make, but, ultimately, the only one we could make," he said. "Winter Festival is one of our favorite annual events. The weather may not have cooperated this year, but we anticipate a flurry of winter fun for Winter Festival 2006."

Investigating fraud

MI DETROIT — Federal au-thorities said they are investigating groups that may have helped thousands of people fraudulently obtain state driver's licenses

Authorities said they suspect the groups brought people to Michigan to get licenses they likely couldn't get in other states, charging them a large fee 'We saw an alarming amount of

.. cases where groups were bringing criminals or illegal aliens to Michigan for the sole purpose of obtaining a Michigan driver's license," said Brian Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the Detroit office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement "I don't think it is out of the question to say that there are thousands of them out there."

Authorities are targeting groups that allegedly sold licenses while Michigan lagged behind other states with its residency requirements. The state beefed up its rules last month, requiring adults applying for their first license or personal identification card to provide documentation they live in Michigan. A spokeswoman for Secretary of

State Terri Lynn Land, Kelly Chesney, said the state continues to work with the federal government to reduce fraud.

Tuition increases

NASHVILLE — The state program that sells prepaid college tuition is raising the cost of a year's education at most state schools by \$371 to \$5,080. State Treasurer Dale Sims said the new fee covers a gap between tuition inflation and investment earnings. Participants pay for a child's future college tuition at today's prices

Fast delivery

MO UNION — Ann McDonald knew the baby was coming and there wasn't a hospital in sight, so she pulled over and delivered the child outside — appropriately enough — a McDonald's restau-

Chayse Westin McDonald was due that Wednesday. But on the Sunday before, Ann McDonald knew her time was getting near and fast.

Problem was, there is no hospital in this eastern Missouri town and the closest one was 15 minutes

McDonald, whose husband is fighting in Íraq, and the child's grandmother, Linda Cuneio, got in the car, but it soon became evident they wouldn't make it to a hospital. So they pulled over at a Mc-Donald's in Union.

The baby was born beneath the golden arches.

"Of course everyone is like, 'Are you going to name him Ronald?" Ann McDonald said.

	AFRTS Television Schedule							
	Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFV's Web site at http://myafn.dodmedia.ood.mil/ TIFSMY INVIRTY 12-7615							
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley Stanley	Movie ** "Blue Moon" (1999.	Dr Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	Figure Skating State Farm	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Drama) Sharon Lawrence, Inter-		Headline News	Army Newswatch	U.S. Championships, From	Sweet Dreams	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)	nal and external pressures strain a couple's marriage.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Portland, Ore. (Taped)	Best for Less	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI) Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:46) Movie *** "The	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block Smallville "Crisis"	The O'Reilly Factor		Stripped E News	Pacific Report Smallville "Crisis"
11:30	Stanley "Follow the Lemur"	Birds" (1963) Rod Taylor. A	(:17) General Hospital	Silialiville Crisis	The O Helly Factor		The King of Queens	Sinaliville Chais
12:00	Dora the Explorer	small shore town is attacked by thousands of birds	Headline News	Movie ★★5 "Jurassic Park	FOX News	SportsCenter	That '70s Show "Prank Day"	Movie ★★% "Jurassic Park
12:30	The Wiggles "Movement" Bob the Builder	Movie *** "Forever Young"	Judge Judy Today Laurence Fishburne; the	III" (2001, Adventure) Sam Neill, William H. Macv.	Fox and Friends	College Basketball Connecti-	Girlfriends "Maybe, Baby" Charmed "Hearthreak City"	III" (2001) Sam Neill. A search party encounters new breeds o
13:00 13:30	Dragon Tales 'Sand Castle	(1992, Fantasy) Mel Gibson. A	Newberry Caldecott Book	The Simpsons	rux anu rrienus	cut at Seton Hall. (Taped)	Charmed Heartbleak City	prehistoric terror.
14:00	Hassle/A True-Blue Friend" Tur-	1930s test pilot awakens in the modern-day United States.	Awards.	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "Nine One One"	Pacific Report
14:30	tle Dragons need help. (EI)			The Tonight Show With Jay	1			The Tonight Show With Jay
15:00 15:30	Funniest Home Videos Full House "Captain Video"	(2:56) Movie ** "Kinder- garten Cop" (1990, Comedy)	I Spy Animaniacs	Late Show With David Letter-	American Morning	College Basketball Oklahoma State at Texas.	Any Day Now 'Call Him John- ny'	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon	Arnold Schwarzenegger, Pene- lope Ann Miller, Pamela Reed.	All Grown Up	man	CNN Live Today		Third Watch "Demolition Der-	man
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Teen Kids News (EI)	Access Hollywood			by'	Access Hollywood
17:00 17:30	Doug (EI) The Wild Thornberrys	The Entertainers	Jeopardy! Headline News	Headline News The Late Late Show	1	SportsCenter	Law & Order "Marathon"	Headline News The Late Late Show
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews	The Late Late Show	FOX News	College Basketball BYU at	The Simpsons	The Late Late Show
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller		Wyoming. (Taped)	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00	The Proud Family The Amanda Show	Movie ** s "The Mexican" (2001, Adventure) Brad Pitt, Ju-	Smallville "Crisis"	Countdown With Keith Olber-	DaySide With Linda Vester		Star Trek: Enterprise "Chosen Realm" Crew taken hostage.	Countdown With Keith Olber-
20:00	Everwood "Moonlight Sonata"	lia Boberts A mob lackey ones	Movie ** "Jurassic Park	mann	FOX News	Tennis Australian Open Early	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	mann
20:30		to Mexico to retrieve a priceless antique.	IIII" (2001) Sam Neill. A search	Entertainment Studios.com	1	Round Day 2. From Mel-	tion "Last Laugh"	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Sister, Sister	•	party encounters new breeds of prehistoric terror.	The Hot List	Studio B With Shepard Smith	bourne, Australia. (Same-day Tape)	Jamie's Kitchen	The Hot List
21:30	Sister, Sister (Part 1 of 2) The Cosby Show	(:18) Movie * * "Men in Black II" (2002, Science Fiction) Tom-	Headline News	Headline News Good Morning America	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Friends	Headline News Good Morning America
22:00	Home Improvement	my Lee Jones, Will Smith.	The Tonight Show With Jay	accounting America	TOWN WOULD WHILL INCH CRYCLO		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	acco aronning America
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Psalm	Movie ** "Dragnet" (1987)	Leno		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	Daily Show-Jon Stewart	
23:30	151"	Dan Aykroyd, Tom Hanks.	Late Show-Letterman			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters	(11:00) Movie ** "Dragnet"	II ate Show-I etterman	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY IPlay With Me Sesame	19, 2005 Hoadling Nows	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan	Play With Me Sesame
00:30	Rocket Power	(1987) Dan Aykroyd.	Access Hollywood	Bear in the Big Blue House	NBC Nightly News	-,	O'Brien	Bear in the Big Blue House
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	(12:47) Movie ** "Army of Darkness" (1992) Bruce	College Basketball Wake For- est at Florida State. (Live)	Blue's Clues	ABC World News Tonight	College Basketball Wake For- est at Florida State. (Live)	Star Trek: Enterprise "Chosen Realm" Crew taken hostage.	Blue's Clues
1:30	Rugrats The Proud Family	Campbell, Embeth Davidtz.	est at Florida State. (Live)	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil	CBS Evening News The NewsHour With Jim	est at Flurida State. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investiga-	Wheel of Fortune Dr. Phil
2:00	The Amanda Show	Coming Attractions	1	Dr. Prili	Lehrer		tion "Last Laugh"	Dr. Pilli
3:00	Everwood "Moonlight Sonata"	Movie * * x "The Mexican"	NBA Nation Matt Winer, Greg	Oprah Winfrey	Hannity & Colmes	College Basketball Mississippi	Jamie's Kitchen	Oprah Winfrey
3:30 4:00	Sister, Sister	(2001, Adventure) Brad Pitt, Ju- lia Roberts. A mob lackey goes	Anthony, Tim Legler and Steven A. Smith provide highlights and	NBC Nightly News	Headline News	State at Alabama. (Live)	Friends	NBC Nightly News
4:00	Sister, Sister (Part 1 of 2)	to Mexico to retrieve a priceless	analysis.	Judge Judy	Nightly Business Report		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	Judge Judy
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Lou Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	Access Hollywood
5:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	(:18) Movie * * "Men in Black II" (2002 Science Fiction) Tom-	ESPNews Headline News	(:25) Guiding Light (:13) General Hospital	Larry King Live	NFL Live	Caribbean Workout Body Shaping	(:25) Guiding Light (:13) General Hospital
6:00	Blue's Clues	my Lee Jones, Will Smith.	Headline News	(:13) Gerierai nospitai	Larry King Live	1st & 10	TIPical Mary Ellen	(:13) General nospital
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	The Entertainers	Play With Me Sesame	Larry King Live	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NFL Total Access	The View	Sylvester & Tweety
7:30	Bob the Builder		Bear in the Big Blue House					Buzz Lightyear of Star
8:00 8:30	The Wiggles "Play" Dora the Explorer	Behind the Scenes Entertainment Tonight	Blue's Clues Wheel of Fortune	The Fairly OddParents My Life as a Teenage Robot	BET Nightly News Tavis Smiley	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	The Fairly OddParents My Life as a Teenage Robot
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Borrowed Hearts"	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(1997) Roma Downey, Hector Elizondo. A single mother agrees		Headline News	Headline News	Announced. (Taped)	Food 911	Headline News
10:00 10:30	Arthur (EI) Reading Rainbow (EI)	to pose as her employer's wife.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey (:35) Guiding Light	ESPNews Advisory Block	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Sensible Chic Fashion File	ESPNews Pacific Report
10:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	(10:48) Movie * * "The Ami-	1	The Parkers	The O'Reilly Factor		E! News Live	The Parkers
11:30	Stanley	tyville Horror" (1979, Horror) James Brolin, Margot Kidder,	(:17) General Hospital	Arrested Development	1	SportsCenter	The King of Queens	Arrested Development
12:00	Dora the Explorer (EI)	Rod Steiger.	Headline News	The Casino	FOX News	NBA Basketball Teams to Be	That '70s Show Girlfriends	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Cox Family"
12:30 13:00	The Wiggles "Nutrition" Bob the Builder	Movie ** "One Fine Day"	Judge Judy Today Donald Trump; portable	The District "Free Byrd"	Fox and Friends	NBA Basketball leams to Be Announced. (Taped)	Charmed "Reckless Abandon"	Lost
13:30	Dragon Tales "Zak Takes a	(1996) Michelle Pfeiffer. Two	heaters.					
14:00	Dive/Under the Weather" Zak and Wheezie learn to swim. (EI)	overstressed single parents tip- toe around romance.		Pacific Report The Tonight Show With Jav	Fox and Friends		Ally McBeal "Playing With Matches"	Pacific Report The Tonight Show With Jay
14:30	Funniest Home Videos	(:04) Movie *** "Forget	Sylvester & Tweety	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "It's Who You	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
15:00	Full House	Paris" (1995) Billy Crystal. A	Buzz Lightyear of Star	Late Show With David Letter-	1		Sleep With"	Late Show With David Letter-
16:00	Pokémon	man tells his fiancee about his friends' stormy marriage.	The Fairly OddParents	man	CNN Live Today	NFL Live	Third Watch "Alone in a Crowd"	man
16:30 17:00	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2) Doug "Doug's Hot Dog" (EI)	Inside the Actors Studio 'Mar-	My Life as a Teenage Robot Jeopardy!	Access Hollywood Headline News	1	World Sport SportsCenter	Law & Order "Patsy"	Access Hollywood Headline News
17:00	The Wild Thornberrys	tin Sheen" Martin Sheen.	Headline News	The Late Late Show	†	oporto o entre i	Lun a Oluei Talay	The Late Late Show
18:00	The Fairly OddParents	Coming Attractions	ESPNews	1	FOX News	Beyond the Glory NFL running hack Priest Holmes		
18:30	Rugrats Even Stevens	Entertainment Tonight Movie *** "Changing	AFN Evening News	Dennis Miller	DaySide With Linda Vester	back Priest Holmes. ESPNews	Everybody Loves Raymond American Idol Performers au-	Dennis Miller
19:00	Even Stevens Kenan & Kel	Lanes" (2002, Drama) Ben Af-	The Parkers Arrested Development	Countdown With Keith Olber-	DaySide With Linda vester	ESPNews NBA Inside Stuff	American Idol Performers au- dition in front of judges.	Countdown With Keith Olber-
20:00	Gilmore Girls "Run Away, Little	fleck. A car accident puts two men on a collision course	Extreme Makeover: Home	mann	FOX News	Tennis Australian Open Early	American Idol	mann
20:30	Boy"		Edition "Cox Family"	Entertainment Studios.com	Chadle B Will Channel C	Round Day 3. From Mel- bourne, Australia. (Same-day	Ultimate Tree House	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	Degrassi: Next Degrassi: Next	(8:54) Movie ** * "High Fi- delity" (2000) John Cusack. A	Lost	The Hot List Headline News	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Tape)	Ultimaté Tree House	The Hot List Headline News
22:00	The Cosby Show	record-store owner recalls past relationships that failed.	Headline News	Good Morning America	1		Friends	Good Morning America
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show With Jay	1	Your World With Neil Cavuto		Seinfeld "The Pilot, Part I"	1
23:00	Touched by an Angel "The Peacemaker"	Movie ** * "Bat 21" (1988, Drama) Gene Hackman.	Leno Late Show-Letterman		Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn Pardon the Interruption	Daily Show-Jon Stewart Blind Date	-
23:30		, deno radimar.	Late Show-Letterman			raidon the interruption	DIIIIO Date	



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FACES

Singer's daughters too young for 'Lights'

Plenty of people saw **Tim McGraw's** dark side in his portrayal of an alcoholic father in the movie "Friday Night Lights."

The country singer's three young daughters were not



McGraw

among them, however.
"I wouldn't want them to see
Daddy like that and have them not

be able to understand the difference," McGraw said of the film, which comes to video and DVD Tuesday.

The singer has three children all

The singer has three children, all under age 7, with wife and fellow musician Faith Hill.

The movie was McGraw's first venture into Hollywood. It stars Billy Bob Thornton and received favorable reviews for its depiction of a

high school football team in Texas.

McGraw, 37, says he drew from personal experience to
play Charles Billingsley, the bullying father of a Permian

Panthers player.
"I grew up in Louisiana and was around sports my whole life, so I always saw that kind of guy hanging around. It's an adaptation of a lot of people I knew growing up."

'Cheers' star christens research vessel

Actor **Ted Danson** served drinks on the TV show "Cheers." He used a bottle of bubbly to christen a catamaran that will spend five months searching the seas for pollution and threatened marine life.



Danso

Danson, a board member of the conservation group Oceana, christened the 71-foot vessel "Ranger" at Marina del Rey on Friday.

Oceana plans to sail the vessel to areas of Central America, the Caribbean, Africa and Europe that are threatened by pollution and overfishing.

"Ranger will be Oceana's eyes and ears in the oceans," Danson said. "It will enable us to record visually the wonders of the deep as well as the horrors of what is happening to our oceans."

Danson said he hoped the project will spur people to join the group's efforts.

Ramone tribute unveiled in cemetery

A bronze statue honoring late punk guitarist Johnny Ramone was unveiled before hundreds of celebrities and cheering fans at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery.

Ramone, co-founder and guitarist of The Ramones, was 55 when he died of prostate cancer in September at his Los Angeles home. The \$100,000 statue sits near the grave of bandmate Dee Dee Ramone, who died of a drug overdose in 2002.

Grammy-winning producer Rick Rubin said at the Friday unveiling that The Ramones were as influential to the world of rock 'n' roll as The Beatles.

"There was the music before them and the music after," he said.

Tommy Ramone, the only surviving member of the

rommy kamone, the only surviving member of the original band, said the memorial symbolized the spirit of The Ramones' music.

"He wanted the fans to have a place to come and a way to feel in touch with this music that got so many things right," he said.

Linda Ramone stands by the newly unveiled statue of her late husband, guitarist Johnny Ramone, at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery in Los Angeles on Friday, Ramone. co-founder and guitarist of The Ramones, was 55 when he died of prostate cancer on Sent. 15. The statue is near the grave of bandmate

Dee Dee Ramone





BY HANH NGUYEN

opher Grace, who often mouths off to his sitcom father on Fox's "That "70s Show," is once again giving gray hairs and grief to the older generation in his latest feature "In Good Company."

The comedy — written and directed by Oscar-nominated scribe Paul Weitz — centers on young upstart Carter Duryea (Grace) who takes over the job of Dan Foreman (Dennis Quaid), the head of ad sales for a leading sports publication. Dan isn't too keen on taking apport, especially with another baby on the way and his daughter's recent acceptance into a pricey college. Carter can't be bothered to play nice at the office, however, now that his beautiful wife has left his.

Weitz wasn't that familiar with Grace's previous work but cast the 26-year-old actor — who's been compared to a young Jack Lemmon — based on his everyman qualities and comic timing.

"He made me laugh the most and, appeared sharky enough ... that one believed he could fire Dennis Quaid," says the director.

"That's such an important part of the jeopardy in the novie."

Besides acing the audition, Grace also had a fellow castmate's support in landing the role. "There were a lot more famous people who wanted to play my role (but) Demis was kind enough to put in his three cents ... and said that I could do it," says Grace. "So I'm grateful for that." Although the ageist rivalry between the two men on

Although the ageist rivalry between the two men on screen didn't translate to real life, Quaid couldn't resist playing a little initiation prank on his co-star. On the first day of shooting, Quaid had finished doing close-ups for a long dialogue scene when it was time for Grace to shoot his own.

Think that Paul did (Dennis') side of it first so that I could get my flow going," explains Grace. "Then they turned the cameras around on me, and when I came back his stand-in was there, and he said, 'I'll be reading Dennis' lines during this scene."

Weitz, who admits that he's "mortified by practical jokes," took pity on his star. "Topher was sitting there sweating and annoyed, and I came out and I said, 'No, he's only kidding,' "says the director.

The younger actor gets back at Quaid in the film, however. Not only does Carter take Dan's job, salary and office, he adds insult to injury when he starts to date Dan's daughter Alex (Scarlett Johansson).

Although Grace never plays the hunk on screen, his characters never fail to inspire amorous feelings in beautiful ladies, who include Kate Bosworth, Erika Christensen, Laura Prepon and even "older woman" Laura Linney in "P.S." Johansson's character, an ambitious yet naive college freshman, is no different.

"She has this line, 'Tm cursed with a functional family,' the implication being that she is drawn to Carter's dysfunction ... to the fact that he is 26 years old and divorced," says Weitz.

to the fact that he is 2b years old and divorced," says Weitz.
"Carter has got everything on paper: he's got the right
car, and the right job and the right life and the right
house," says Grace.

"(But) his parents were both absent (so) he's dating Dan's daughter as a consolation prize instead of actually being in the family."

Grace under fire

Actor Topher Grace shows grown-up chops as he shoots for big-screen stardom

In real life, Grace doesn't have to settle for any consolation prizes. Besides starring in one of Fox's most popular sitcoms, the actor has received critical raves for his big-screen performances as the clever but jaded druggie in "Traffic" and as the one redeeming feature of the lackluster teen comedy "Win a Date with Tad Hamilton!"

Now, the National Board of Review has named his roles in "In Good Company" and "P.S." as the best breakthrough performances by an actor for 2004.

Even with all this attention, it's unlikely that the actor, who never went to acting school, will follow in the cocky footsteps of his character Carter Duryea.

"I'm really open in talking about how green I am and how much I just want to learn," says Grace. "A big part of it for me was just trying to shut up and observe."



HOW WILL MY HAIR LAST FOR 5 HOURS?!

Horoscope

encourage reasonable decisions that lead to greater stability both financially and emotionally Taurus lunar influence **Holiday Mathis** promises that with consistent baby steps we will prevail. The goal is still out of reach, but it is a tangible nnal and it doesn't take much imagination to actually feel what it will be like to hold it

TODAY'S RIRTHDAY (January 18). Your theme

this year is "living and loving in harmony." People come out of the woodwork to help you at precisely the right moment. In February, you acquire new technology that makes life easier, such as a computer or car. Spring is about mentors. Their lessons will stay with you a long time and also be viable! Lucky love signs are Aquarius and Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're not feeling particularly social

so don't even try to fight it. Use the astrological vibes to get in tune with your body. Hit the gym. Put on the Walkman, and vent some of that restless energy on the treadmill.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Emotional support comes in a feminine package. Reach out to a woman in your family, particularly a grandmother or elderly aunt. She needs your strength as well but may be too proud to admit it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

You're the clown of the zodiac now, juggling several different projects with ease and never letting anyone see the person behind the greasepaint. Watch for opportunities to delegate. The perfect person for the iob is there

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A difficult situation concerning a man (probably not a family member or someone with whom you have romantic ties) will arise. The best defense is a good offense. The element of surprise is on your side

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The timing is right to begin any sort of spiritual practice, such as tai chi,

meditation or yoga. Even if you've been practicing a particular discipline for years, you will benefit from

a renewed sense of commitment. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are able to convey your

thoughts clearly to those you love. Even if the words aren't right, the emotion says it all. Your willingness to

communicate even when you feel awkward will create even more love in vour life LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Gratitude is one of life's greatest blessings. If something irritates you, thank the universe for giving you

this opportunity to better yourself by rising above it. It is impossible to feel sorry for oneself while being grateful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). As Yogi Berra said, "It's déjà vu all over again." But this time, a flash of insight into your own behavior could suddenly come to you, steering you in a new direction. Your curiosity is your best asset.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). A friend or colleague is stretching his or her wings, experimenting with finding personal power within the group dynamic. Encourage this person. The karmic payoff for you is huge, even if you can't immediately

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). The gateways to success are always open. If one door seems inaccessible, go around to the next Keep trying until you find the one that yields easily to your touch. You, more than anyone, know the true value of patience

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A co-worker or parent figure may make his or her affections known to you. If you feel the same, congratula-- you've made a love connection! If not, an honest discussion will

restore the balance PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Snuggle up to your sweetheart. You feel a close emotional bond to your partner, which reassures you you're headed in the right direction. Single

fish could find late-night romance at a social gathering near the sea. Creators Syndicate

Peanuts

Keep him off balance.







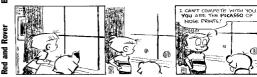














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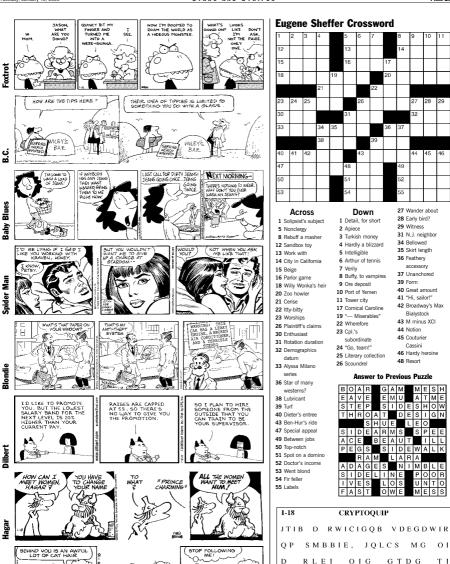






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Tuesday, January 18, 2005 · STARS AND STRIPES · PAGE 23



RWICIGOB VDEGDWIR O I

RLEI OIG GTDG

VEIPIER EMOR?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PUT A SOFT COVER OVER A SALAD VEGETABLE, I GUESS IT COULD BE A CELERY CAP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

Love can work second time around

Dear Abby: "Divorced but Still in Love" asked if it was possible for a couple who had been divorced to make a go of marriage the second time around. You replied that it is possible if the couple is willing (with the help of a marriage counselor) to con-Dear Abby front the issues that broke them up the first time

The same thing hanpened to me and my husband, "John." W were married at 18 and had a child at 21. We were both immature and too young to be married. After our divorce, we still spent time together as a

Two years later, I met and married "George." George and I had a child together, but he was not a good husband or father. Several months after I divorced George, John and I rekindled our relationship. We have been together for almost five years,

married for 31/2 years and are blissfully happy together. John is a wonderful father to both boys and doesn't play favorites. I know it can work the second time around; our marriage is proof of it.

to you both

- Older and Wiser. Tabor City, N.C. Dear Older and Wiser- Congratulations

Sometimes people fail to appreciate the value of what they have until it's gone. Read on:

Dear Abby: My

husband and I were married at 19. In first grade, I would kick him in the shins and then run like the dickens because I "liked" him.

My first kiss was from him on my 16th birthday. After four years of separating and getting back together, he said enough is enough and filed for divorce.

Almost a year to the day our

divorce was final, we remarried and have not been sorry. (We had continued to see each other and I became pregnant.) While I don't recommend having a relationship like ours, we have been happy with our decision. Counsel-

ing would have been a great help, but we were too stubborn to get it even after we remarried. Long story short, we have been through a lot over the years even almost divorcing again but we're more in love than ever. With love and faith, we seem to get through it.

- Still in Love, Whittier, Calif. Dear Still in Love: I'm pleased things are working out for the two of you - but the next time you hit a rough patch, please

reconsider counseling. It could save you both a lot of wear and tear on the spirit. Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440,

Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/deara Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square to form four ordinary words HURTT

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FRIPOT

REFIHE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WHAT INNING DID

THEY PASS THE

BOTTLE AROUND?

Answer here:

Family Circus

Answer

GOSSIP

(Answers tomorrow) Jumbles: PIECE MINUS NOUGAT BANISH This can curl your hair at a beauty salon -

Yesterday's

1-18

"Don't talk, Jeffy. Mommy needs quiet when she's emerging into traffic.'

Friend's lies troublesome, illegal

Dear Annie: I am in a sticky situation with a longtime friend, "Joe," and his wife, "June." June is a pathological liar. She tells big ones and small ones, and her lying has caused some conflicts in their marriage, and now in our friendship with Joe.

June recently skipped out on a big bill she accu mulated by saying their child needed an organ transplant. People in the neighborhood are concerned for the family's welfare, and they are rallying around, putting together fruit baskets and raising money. Of course, their child isn't sick at all and never was

Other than this, Joe and June are great people, and we've had many good times over the years. I don't want June's lving to come between our friendship. Joe has never mentioned his wife's fabrications, and we suspect it hasn't occurred to him that her tall tales get back to us. We hate

Annie's Mailbox

seeing him oblivious to what she is doing. We no longer trust her, and it is increasingly uncomfortable to be around her

Do we tell Joe what we know? Should our children still be able to play with theirs? — Concerned Friends

in Illinois Dear Friends: Taking money donated for

her child's "transplant" puts June squarely in the criminal-fraud division. She can be arrested.

June needs therapy, and soon. If you are certain of your facts. confront June and tell her she needs help. If she refuses, talk to Joe. Yes, it may damage the friendship, but it sounds as if that's going south anyway, and this is too serious to ignore. As for the children, unless they are following in Mom's footsteps, there is no reason they cannot continue to play with yours.

Dear Annie: I read with

interest the letter from "K.B. the woman whose dentist and doctor had given up on her prob lems with temporomandibular joint pain, TMJD is complex, and management includes a comprehensive exam and diagnosis, addressing all possible contributing factors, K.B. should ask her dentist for a referral to a center that specializes in chronic pain or a dental school that does re-

search in TMJD — Claire E. Collins, D.M.D., University of Colorado School of Dentistry

Dear Dr Collins: Thank you for your expert advice. For infor mation on TMJ, we recommend The TMJ Association (tmj.org) P.O. Box 26770. Milwaukee. WI 53226-0770. We heard from hundreds of readers, many of whom had their own suggestions.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmalibox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndi-cate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Dennis the





The Great Nerd Drive of '76



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vour

scene?

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and every

Sunday to

get your

scene!

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140 Automotive
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Automotive 140	Autos for Sale - Germany 142
THINKING OF BUYING OR	- Germany 142
SELLING www.militaryusedcars.com FOR ALL YOUR NEW AND USED CAR NEEDS OR CALL 0171-7869250	BMW 730i '89 Gray metalic, auto, 130K miles, alu wheels, pw, wood trim, Wiesbaden S euor 2,550 call 0178-6711575
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- Germany 142	BMW M5 '91, blk, 330 hp 6 zyl, 5 sp. 17' rims, tint wind, all-owr.
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or, premäsport pkg, fully loaded, \$ 37K obo, call 0175-7503269	Cadillac STS '97 Seville, wht/tan interior, 300hp, new
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BMW 528i '98 Sportwagon Euro-spec 107k km, Black, alito, sunroot, navigation system, leather int, exc. cond. \$17,000	Porsche 928 '89 316 hp, auto, abs, a/c, phone, gray met /blk leather, perfect maint, euro spec \$11,900 call 06195-676851
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alic, els, lue, km, bo,	Chery Tioga 78, V8, 5.71 gas, dually, 220 volt, ac, heat, kitchhen, bath, 3 beds, 2 kw gen, Sik, email: motorasck# ado.com Plymouth Voyager 95 LE Grand teal, pwr drs, win 150k trifrear heatlar \$2,200 bb call 0160 92943661 Wiesbaden	050 Antiques 140 Automotive		
nd	Motorcycles 164			
zyl, wr. call ille, iew	HD '03 Heritage SFTL, blk & slv, vh pipes loads of chrome most orig parts inc. \$19k call 0170-1977997 or email: george. holzer@us.army.mil	Auto Parts 180 15" Kumho Snow-Tires x4, with rims size 215/75R15 \$300 call		
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uto.	Chevy Trailblazer '04 LS 4 X 4 drk/Red metallic, Excellent Condition, many extras, low miles, 01605145659	TOT GOOD TOTAL David after		
DIK	AL	07001-102000		

Buses/Vans/RVs 158

edit okko bymas	Chevy Trailblazer '04 LS 4 X 4 drk/Red metallic, Excellent Condition, many extras, low miles 01605145659
	Chevy Trailblazer LS '02, red ex. cond,ac, hitch, pwr-win,pwr lks,4x4, 29900 mi, warranh \$17,900 obo.call 09337-980640 or 0160-93576464
	Ford Escape XLT '02, midnigh blk, loaded, front wheel dr, jüs 30k miles, \$18500 obo contac 334-2641 or 06109-695551

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Trucks	174	
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Wednesday, Jan. 19

AFN-Atlantic, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Wake Forest at Florida St. AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—College basketball: Purdue at Michigan St. AFN-Radio, 2:30 a.m.—NBA: Indiana at Houston.

Ouston.

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m.—College basketball:
dississippi St. at Alabama.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—NBA: Indiana at Hous-

ton (dld).

AFN-Sports, 12:30 p.m.—NBA: Washington at Dallas (dld).

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College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 fared

AP Men's Top 25 fared

J. Illinois (18:4) Sendary

J. Illi

.... p.ay. next: at No. 1 25. Oklahoma (13-2) did not play. Next: at Texas A&M, Tuesdav

UCF 87, Troy 76
MIDWEST
Chicago 82, Case Reserve 71
Wisconsin 62, Michigan St. 59 viscorisin bz, Michigan St. 59 SOUTHWEST Trinity, Texas 72, Rose-Hulman 55 FAR WEST Portland 74, Loyola Marymount 57 ount 57

AP Women's Top 25 fared

Sunday

1. Duke (16-1) did not play. Next: vs. Geor-gia Tech, Monday ia Tech, Monday. 2. Baylor (13-2) beat Oklahoma 78-68. Next: t No. 12 Texas, Saturday. 3. LSU (16-1) beat Alabama 76-51. Next: vs.

a. 1,521 (16-1), best Alabama 76-51. Next: vs. Arkansas, Thursday,
4. Rutgers (12-3) lost to No. 5 ohlo Sarva,
52-50. Next: vs. Providence, Thursday, vs. St. St. Next: at Hodian, Thursday,
62-50. Next: at Hodian, Thursday,
6. Stanford (12-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 19 UCLA, Thursday,
8. Tennessee (12-3) beat No. 17 Vanderbilli,
96-69, Next: at Aburry, Thursday,
96-69, Next: at Aburry, Thursday,
11 Minnesota 62-49. Next: at Illinois, Wednesday.

9. North Carolina (13-2) did not play, Nextvs. Miami, Monday,
vs. Miami,
vs. Miami, Monday,
vs. Miami,
vs. Miam

24. rowa state (14-1) did not play. Next: vs. Nebraska, Saturday. 25. Virginia Tech (11-3) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina State. Monday. Sunday's women's scores

Sunday's women's soci Bloomsburg 7.3 Lock Haven 65 Clarion 84, East Stroudsburg 51 Edinors 70, Haven 65 Clarion 84, East Stroudsburg 51 Edinor 70, West Cleaster 66, Cor Georgeown 85, 51, John 57, 20 Georgeown 85, 10 Georgeown 85, 10

Tówson 65, N.C.-Will Mindford 61
SOUTH
Bridgewater, Va. 65, Guilford 52
Chowan 89, Shenandoah 69
E. Mennonite 66, Emory & Henry 41
Florida 67, South Carolina 57
Florida 51, 59, Marylland 91, 07
Georgetown, Ky. 58, St. Mary's of the Woods

Florida St. 25. Mary and the Woods Georgies Nr., Ng. 85. Mary as of the Woods Georgies Nr. 18. 85. Mary as of the Woods Georgies Nr. 18. 85. Mary as of the Woods Georgies Nr. 18. 85. Mary as of the Woods Georgies Nr. 18. 85. Mary as of the Woods Georgies Nr. 18. 85. Mary as of the Woods Nr. 18. 85. Mary as of the Woods Nr. 18. 18. Mary Annual Nr. 18. Mary Annual N

College hockey **Hockey East**

W L T Pts GF GA 8 1 3 19 35 19 9 3 0 18 45 29 7 3 2 16 43 25 4 5 2 10 32 35 4 6 2 10 32 35 4 6 2 10 34 31 4 7 2 10 33 48 2 9 3 7 30 46 1 12 1 3 25 58 Boston Coll. Boston U. Boston U. New Hampshire Maine Mass.-Lowell Northeastern Massachusetts Providence Merrimack

W L T Pts GF GA 114 4 0 26 68 37 13 3 0 26 62 38 11 5 0 22 64 44 10 9 1 21 50 46 9 4 1 19 54 39 7 9 2 16 57 58 5 10 1 11 36 60 5 12 1 11 36 60 5 12 1 0 37 57 2 14 0 4 37 66 Denver Minn.-Duluth Alaska-Anchor Minn.-Mankato St. Cloud St. CCHA

WCHA

Wisconsin Colorado Coll.

Minnesota N. Dakota

· STARS AND STRIPES ·

W L T Pts
15 1 0 30
12 3 1 25
9 7 2 20
8 5 3 19
7 5 2 16
6 6 2 14
5 10 1 11
5 10 1 11
4 9 3 11
4 9 3 11
3 11 4 10 Michigan Ohio St. Neb-Omaha N. Michigan Bowling Green Michigan St. Lake Superior St. Alaska-Fairbanks W. Michigan Ferris St. Miami (Ohio) Notre Dame GF GA 80 38 57 35 61 51 37 32 47 45 50 46 36 35 39 58 51 66 36 49 28 60

ECAC

W L T Pts GF GA 7 2 2 16 34 17 7 2 2 16 34 17 7 2 1 15 34 15 7 4 1 15 30 27 7 5 0 14 32 31 6 4 0 12 39 33 5 5 0 0 10 28 22 4 5 2 10 28 32 4 8 0 8 39 47 2 7 1 5 27 45 2 9 1 5 27 5 2 10 0 4 29 54 Colgate Vermont Cornell Harvard Union, N.Y. St. Lawrenc Dartmouth Brown Princeton Clarkson RPI

Sunday's scores

EAST Lebanon Valley 7, W. New England 3 Nichols 9, Suffolk 4 Salve Regina 3, Franklin Pierce 1

Saturday's scores Adult day 3 scores

EAST
Amherst 7, Salem 81, 22
Babson 7, S1, Michael 5 on 10, 10
Buffalo S1, Michael 5 on 10, 10
Buffalo S1, 3, Neumann 1 on 10, 10
Colgate 1, Union, NY, 20
Conecticut Colo, 27, Video Vi Hamilton 2, S. Maine 2, tie Hobart 4, Geneseo St. 3, OT Holy Cross 4, Canisius 2 Lebanon Valley 1, Framingham St. 1, tie Manhattanville 4, Potsdam 2 Maine 5, Massachusetts 2 rebando Valley I. Framingham St. I. tle Mannatamille A. Potcadan Z. Mannatamille A. Potcadan Z. Mass. Deverting and Mass. Deve

FAR WEST Air Force 2, Army 1 Colorado College 1, North Dakota 0

Golf

Sony Open

Sony Open
Assurably Land State of the Control of th Robert Camera, 133,580 of 8-66 of 7-1-21 own for from \$3,000 or 15,000 of 7-10 own for from \$3,000 or 15,000 own for from \$3,000 own for from \$3,0 22. Scott Verplank
23. Shigeki Maruyama
24. Lee Westwood
25. Luke Donald
26. Choi Kyung-Ju
27. Thomas Bjorn
28. Jay Haas
29. Paul Casey
30. Jonathan Kaye
31. Angel Cabrera
31. Angel Cabrera
31. Angel Cabrera
31. Argel Cabrera
32. Fred Couples
33. Jerry Kelly
35. Jerry Kelly
36. Jan Poulter 34 Robert Allenby
48 Robert Allenby
48 Robert Allenby
56 Jan Poulter
37. Justin Leonard
38. John Daly
39. Peter Lonard
40. Steve Flesch
40. Steve Flesch
42. Fredrik Jacobson
43. Charles Howell III
44. Mark Hensby
45. Zach Johnson
64. Thomas Levet
47. Nick O'Hern
46. O'Ms Riempling
50. Joakim Haeggman

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Dick Mast, \$12,05.3.3 | 746-469-75-5 Steve Jones, \$10,058 | 73-697-746-7 Rob Bashell, \$10,058 | 73-697-746-7 Rob Bashell, \$10,058 | 73-697-746-7 Rob Bashell, \$10,058 | 73-697-746-7 Greg Owen, \$10,658 | 73-697-797-7 Greg Owen, \$10,658 | 73-697-797-7 Steve Flesch, \$10,058 | 73-69-697-7 Durfly Waldorf, \$25,98 | 74-68-75-7 Durfly Waldorf, \$25,98 | 74-68-75-7 Hank Koulente, \$25,984 | 70-77-77-7 Hank Koulente, \$25,984 | 70-77-77-7 Ryull Imada, \$5,600 | 75-69-67-7 Ryull Imada, \$5,600 | 75-69-71-7 Several Ryull Imada, \$6

Ryuli Imada, \$9,600 73-69-68-75-285 + 5 Charles Warren, \$9,264 74-68-76-68-286 + 6 Joey Snyder III, \$9,264 71-71-74-70-286 + 6 Tom Kite, \$9,264 71-71-69-75-286 + 6 Tom Kite, \$9,264 71-71-69-75-286 + 6 Tom Kite, \$9,264 71-71-69-75-286 + 6 Dean Wilson, \$9,024 67-70-72-77-288 + 8 Greg Meyer, \$8,928 71-70-74-74-288 + 9 Paul Gow, \$8,832 70-87-67-92-93 + 13

PGA Tour schedule-winners

PGA Tour schedule-winners
Jan. 6-9 Mercede Championships (Stuart Appileby) Jan. 13-16 — Sony Open (Vilgata) Appileby) Jan. 13-16 — Sony Open (VilgaJan. 20-22) — Buckle Investational, Torrey
Pines (North and South), San Diego
Champion (Control of Control
Co

Feb. 17-20 — Wisher Spentrum Match Play
Angeles
Feb. 23-27 — WGC-Accenture Match Play
Championship, La Costa Resort and Spa,
Carlsbad, Calif.
Feb. 24-27 — Chrysler Classic of Tucson,
Omni Tucson National Golf Resort and Spa,
Tucson Ariz

Tucson, Ariz.

March 3-6 — Ford Championship, Doral
Golf Resort and Spa (Blue Course), Miami
March 10-13 — Honda Classic, Country
Club at Mirasol (Sunrise Course), Palm
Beach Gardens, Fla.

AND IF DAVID STERN CAN'T

PAGE 27

World golf ranking Through Jan. 16 Vijay Singh Tiger Woods Ernie Els Retief Goosen

13.54 11.09 10.73 7.14 J. Tiger Wrows
L. Ernie E. Boosen
J. Finish Mickelson
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J. Adam Soci 6.48 5.41 6.498 4.92 4.75 4.67 4.13 3.47 3.47 3.42 3.42 3.37 3.25 3.20 3.05 2.98 2.89 2.89 2.82 2.75 2.62 2.59 2.56 2.53 2.51 2.49 2.41 2.37 2.35 2.32 2.31 2.30 2.27 2.19

2005 Presidents Cup points

Ur 1. Tiger Woods 2. Phil Mickelson 3. Stewart Cink 4. Todd Hamillon 5. Davis Love III 6. Jonathan Kaye 7. Chris DiMarco 8. David Toms 9. Steve Flesch 6,065,472 5,784,823 5,237,737 3,227,885 3,075,092 2,992,172 2,971,842 2,867,531 2,617,003 2,591,791 2,535,507

9. Steve Flesch 10. Zach Johnson 11. John Daly 12. Jerry Kelly 13. Chad Campbell 14. Scott Verplank 15. Charles Howell III 2,496,222 2,465,091 2,365,592 1. Vijay Singh 2. Ernie Els 3. Retief Goosen 4. Mike Weir 5. Stuart Appleby 6. Adam Scott Fij 13.54 SAf 10.73 SAf 7.14 Can 4.98 Aus 4.67 Aus 4.37 T&T 3.40 Jpn Kor

6. Adam Scott 7. Stephen Ames 8. Shigeki Maruyama 9. Choi Kyung-Ju 10. Angel Cabrera 11. Rory Sabbatini 12. Robert Allenby 3.20 2.98 2.82 2.71 2.62 2.51 2.35 2.30 Arg SAf Aus Aus Aus Aus Peter Lonar Mark Henst Nick O'Hern 2006 Ryder Cup points

Stewart Cink
Jonathan Kaye
Charles Howell III
Tiger Woods
Brett Quigley
Tommy Armour III
Andrew Magee
Vaughn Taylor
David Toms
D. Bart Bryant
D. Robert Gamez
Tom Lehman

Deals

Weekend transactions

MINISTANTIA LINEAR STATE OF THE PRIVATE OF THE PRIV

oitt from the injured list.

NEW JERSEY NETS—Signed F Jerome Moiso to a 10-day contract.

COLLEGE
MEMPHIS—Announced so

MEMPHIS—Announced sophomore men's basketball F Sean Banks has been declared academically ineligible.

MINNESOTA—Announced RB Marion Bar-ber III will forego his senior season and make himself available for the NFL draft.

TANK MCNAMARA

U.S. PISTRICT JUDGE GEORGE PANIELS
RULEP AGAINST THE NBA OVER
THE PACERS' LERNAINE O'NEAL'S
SUSPENSION FOR JERMAINE SIMPLY
DEFENDING HIMSELF IN THE
DEFROIT FAN RIOT.



THE JUDGE SAID "FIGHTING WITH OR STRIKING A FAN HAS NEVER BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS CONDUCT ON THE PLAYING COURT."





Desperate Wolfpack hang on to snap skid

RALEIGH, N.C. - With the game slipping away, and quite possibly the season, Ilian Evtimov caught a pass from Engin Atsur at the right time in just the right spot for North Carolina State.

"All the credit goes to him." Evtimov said. "He got me the ball."

Evtimov made that clutch three-pointer on his way to 17 points, and N.C. State beat No. 8 Georgia Tech 76-68 on Sunday night to snap a four-game losing streak.

Five players scored in double figures for the Wolfpack (11-5, 1-2 Atlantic Coast Con-



ference), who hadn't won since narrowly getting by Columbia last month. Cameron Bennerman finished with 16 points, and Hodge had 12 of his 14 in the

second half, but Evtimov scored the biggest points

The Yellow Jackets (11-4, 2-2) scored 12 straight to get to 64-61, and N.C. State patiently ran its Princeton-style offense until Evtimov got an open look from beyond the arc. He swished the jumper to increase the margin to six with 2:14 left, and the Wolfpack hung on from there.

"I just did what I'm supposed to do," Evtimov said. "The pass came on time, on target, and I just have to make it."

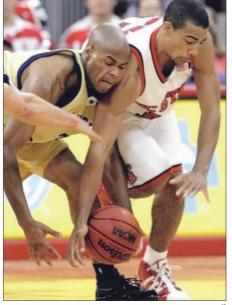
With a road trip to Virginia Tech and Maryland looming, another loss would have left N.C. State 0-3 in the conference for the first time in four seasons.

'We looked pretty desperate to me, Hodge said. "We just went out and gave it our all. We got the win, and I love to win, so I don't even want to talk about the past

With point guard Tony Bethel already on the sidelines with colitis, the Wolfpack didn't have senior Levi Watkins (flu) for this one. That left them with eight scholarship players, and only seven played.

It was enough, with freshmen Andrew Brackman and Gavin Grant taking advan tage of the increased playing time. Brackman scored 12 points - including nine of the first 11 for N.C. State — and added six blocks, and Grant had a career-high 13 points

Jack had 16 points and Isma'il Muhammad added 12 for Georgia Tech, which still missed guard B.J. Elder. He sat out his



Georgia Tech's Jarrett Jack, left, battles with N.C. State's Cameron Bennerman for a loose ball during the second half on Sunday. The Wolfpack ended their four-game losing streak.

fourth straight game with a sore left hamstring, leaving the team without its second-leading scorer.

Without him, the Yellow Jackets lost for

the second time in five days during a trip to Tobacco Road. They were routed 91-69 at North Carolina earlier this week.

"B.J. is definitely one our best players,

make a difference when we are out on the court," coach Paul Hewitt said. "At the same time, we know we have the personnel to win this game.

At least this one was a bit more competitive. After Hodge made two free throws to give N.C. State a 64-49 lead, Georgia Tech rallied, thanks to some heads-up coaching from Hewitt

Hodge got that chance at the line after drawing an offensive foul from Jack, and during a timeout minutes later, Hewitt lobbied hard with referees Reggie Cofer and Terry Moore that Hodge simply flopped.

It worked. On the next Wolfnack possession. Hodge fell out of bounds after a shove from Jack but no foul was called, giving the ball to the Yellow Jackets.

They took advantage of the opportunity, ising that 12-0 run to get within three. Jack started the run with a playground maneuver, throwing an inbounds pass off the back of Jordan Collins and then scoring as he was fouled.

Muhammad followed with consecutive baskets, including a reverse dunk, to make it 64-61 before Evtimov made his three.

'Playing hard defense and somebody hits a three-pointer, it makes you want to shut down in a way." Georgia Tech point guard Jarrett Jack said. "But we fought hard to the end."

No. 5 Duke 80, Virginia 66: At Durham, N.C., J.J. Redick scored 20 of his 28 points in the second half to help Duke beat Virgin-

Shelden Williams added 16 points, 11 reounds and nine blocks for the Blue Devils (13-0, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference)

Sean Singletary scored 19 points to lead the Cavaliers (9-5), who fell to 0-4 in the league for the first time since the 1998-99

No. 13 Boston College 73, West Virginia 53: Jared Dudley scored 21 points and Craig Smith added 20 in the Eagles' eighth straight road win.

The Eagles (14-0, 3-0 Big East), one of four unbeaten teams in Division I, extended the best start in school history and won their first three conference games for the first time under eighth-year coach Al Skinner

Mike Gansey scored 14 points for West Virginia (11-3, 1-2), which has lost three of four after starting the season 10-0.

Badgers' rally extends home streak

The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. - Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan credited the crowd with helping to keep the Badgers' home winning streak alive

Kam Taylor scored the go-ahead basket with 37.3 seconds left and Wisconsin scored the final 11 points Sunday, beating No. 15 Michigan State 62-59 and extending the longest home winning streak in Division I to 38

Ryan called the crowd the "X-factor" and said the fans were the loudest he had ever heard at the Kohl Center.

The Badgers (12-3, 3-1 Big Ten) rallied from an eight-point deficit in the final 1:55

"We sucked in some of that energy," Ryan said. "That's encouraging to your players. The fans really hung with us on that one.

Clayton Hanson scored 15 points and Sharif Chambliss had 14 to lead Wisconsin, which improved to 26-0 in Big Ten home games under Ryan. Mike Wilkin-son added 12 points, including four during the closing run.

"We got down by eight and there's some places I know where I've seen people start to leave a game because they wanted to beat the traffic," Ryan said. "If they left [today], I don't know where the extra noise came

from Rvan improved to 6-0 against

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo. T-shirts circulating in Wisconsin this week read, "Bo 5, Izzo 0," and Izzo grew tired of talking about the Spartans' losing streak to the Badgers.

"Hey, look on the bright side, some shirt guy can now put 6 and make some money," Izzo said.

Paul Davis scored 20 points to

lead Michigan State (10-3, 2-1). which had its 53-game home winning streak snapped by the Badgers on Jan. 12, 2002. For a while Sunday, it appeared the Spartans would return the favor

Davis hit a jumper with 2:49 left to give Michigan State a 59-51 lead, its biggest in a game it led much of the way. But Wisconsin began to chop away as Chambliss hit his fourth three-pointer with 1:55 left, making it 59-54. Wilkinson then hit a pair of free throws with 1:39 left and two more with 1:14 left to make it 59-58

Taylor gave the Badgers the lead with a runner in the lane with 37.3 seconds left. Zach Morlev made two free throws with 9.3 seconds remaining to push Wis-consin's lead to 62-59, and Shannon Brown's three-pointer in the closing seconds circled the rim be-

"I shot it so good," Brown said



Wisconsin's Kam Taylor reacts after scoring the go-ahead basket against Michigan State with 37.3 seconds left in the game on Sunday.

"It went in and then out. It felt good coming off my hand." Hanson, who hit five of Wisconsin's 12 three-pointers, thought

Brown's shot was good.

"All the games and crazy things that happen just kind of flash through your head. It bounced around and I thought for sure, overtime." Hanson said.

Most top seeds advance with ease

Federer, Agassi, S. Williams win in straight sets; No. 5 Moya ousted

BY PAUL ALEXANDER

The Associated Press MELBOURNE, Australia - Roger Fed-

erer opened his Australian Open title defense with the type of dominant display that carried him to the No. 1 ranking last Federer blasted 54 winners to win his

first-round match over France's Fabrice Santoro 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 on Monday, He won all 12 points in the first three games and lost just three points as he raced to a 5-0

"I think the start was important for me,"



said Federer, who extended his winning streak to 22 matches. "That set the tone for the rest of the match. I never really gave him a chance Andre Agassi, al-

ways considered a threat despite his No. 8 se worked his seeding. through stiffness

from a hip injury that raised questions whether he would even be able to begin pursuit of his fifth title at the season-open-

He started slow before beating German qualifier Dieter Kindlmann 6-4, 6-3, 6-0. Marat Safin, the runner-up two of the last three years, was impressive in dismantling 17-year-old qualifier Novak Djokovic 6-0, 6-2, 6-1, allowing the Serbian only four

It didn't take long for an upset, as No. 5 Carlos Moya lost to fellow Spaniard Guiller-mo Garcia-Lopez 7-5, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Garcia-Lopez, ranked 128th at the end of last year, broke the former French Open champion's service in the eighth game of the fourth set and served out at love in the next, making the most of a booming forehand and 43 winners.

Two Russians - fourth-seeded Maria Sharapova, the reigning Wimbledon and Championships winner, and U.S. Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova, seeded fifth - advanced to the second round with straight-set victories, as did second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France. Sharapova topped Sesil Karatantcheva of Bulgaria 6-3, 6-1, while Kuznetsova beat American Jessica Kirkland 6-1, 6-1





Former No. 1 Serena Williams also moved on despite more trouble with her shoes, beating Camille Pin 6-1, 6-1 in the first match on center court. Williams got 27 winners to overcome 22 unforced er-

No. 16 Ai Sugiyama of Japan and No. 24 Mary Pierce, the 1995 winner, were among four seeded women to lose on the first day Santoro's mix of spins and slices gives some players trouble, but he just didn't have enough power — sometimes serving

under 80 mph - to provide much more than a good warmup for Federer. an a good warmup for rederer.
"It's as if Roger was saying to me, 'Right,

that's what I'm offering you today, OK! Santoro said. "You get the feeling that in each of his matches, he just wants to show straight off who the boss is The Swiss star, who won 11 tournaments

last year, started this season with another title in Oatar and beat second-ranked Andy Roddick in the final of an exhibition tournament on the weekend

Federer's next opponent will be Japan's Takao Suzuki, a surprising 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 winner over American Jan-Michael Gambill.

The 34-year-old Agassi could face Federer in the quarterfinals, but didn't seem dis-



in straight sets 6-4, 6-3, 6-0; Carlos Moya, the No. 5 seed, throws his racket in frustration during his first-round loss to compatriot Guillermo Garcia-Lopez.

mayed by the prospect, since it means he'd have three more victories - and almost certainly would be fully recovered from a hip tendon injury that forced him to retire during an exhibition match last week against Roddick. Looking leaner and fitter than last year

despite the injury, Agassi broke Kindl-mann, ranked only 173rd, three times in 17 chances in the first two sets, but converted all three break-point opportunities in the third to wrap up the last set in 19 minutes.

"It held up all right," Agassi said. "I

woke up feeling the best yet since it's happened and with the assurance that I'm not going to sort of pull anything bad, I had the green light to push through anything I might be feeling. "And that's what I did, I just pushed

through a bit of stiffness, and then I felt like it loosened up nicely and I was OK. Agassi will next faces Rainer Schuettler

of Germany, a player he beat in the final two years ago but has since slipped to 40th in the rankings.

"I think it certainly speaks to the quality of men's tennis," Agassi said. "I'm just going to have to step up and play my

The biggest problem for Williams, who missed last year's first Grand Slam because of a knee injury, came when the seventh-seeded American's right shoe came off at deuce in the second game and skidded behind the baseline. Williams laced up the shoe and won the point when it was replayed.

A double-fault on the first point of the match was simply a sign of a nervous start, she said.

"But after the first game, I was OK," she said. "I thought if I just get the first game, then I'll be all right. I think that's just first-round nerves.

After failing to win a major last season, Williams said she's one of the main contenders in a wide-open draw at Melbourne

"I definitely wouldn't be here if I didn't think so," she said. "I'd rather stay home. My goals are pretty much just to win my matches. I think Grand Slams will come with it ' Sania Mirza beat Australia's Cindy Wat-

son 3-6, 6-3, 6-0 to become only the second Indian woman to win a main draw match

Tennis scoreboard

Australian Open

Peter Wessels, Netherlands, def. Lu Peter Wessels, Netherlands, def. Lu Yen-hsun, Talwan, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 Agustin Calleri, Argentina, def. Max Mir-nyi, Belarus, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 Takao Suzuki, Japan, def. Jan-Michael Gambill, United States, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3.

Gaston Gaudio (10), Argentina, def. Justin Gimelstob, United States, 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-3. Andre Agassi (8), United States, def. Dieter Kindlmann, Germany, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0. Taylor Dent (29), United States, def. Flo-rent Serra, France, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.

rent Serra, France, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4, and Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, def. Carlos Moya (5), Spain, 7-5, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, Joachim Johansson (11), Sweden, def. Sjeng Schalken, Netherlands, 7-6 (6), 6-2, 6-3, Paradom Srichaphan (27), Thailand, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 1-6, 6-2, 7-5, 6-4, Janko Tiposarevic, Serbia-Montenegro, def. Daniele Bracciali, Italy, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-1.

peamere an acticular, Italy, r-0 (s), f-0 (b), 3-6, 5-1 Rainer Schuettler, Germany, def. Olivier Pa-lence, France, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-2. Bohdan Ullirrach, Czech Republic, def. Ivo Garriovic, Crostia, 6-3, 6-7 (6), r-5, 6-2. Michal Tabara, Czech Republic, def. Tho-nas Engvist, Sweden, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-3. Revin Kim, United States, def. Lee Yyung-falk, South Korea, 3-6, 4, 6-3, 3-6.

Tommy Haas (16), Germany, def. Xavier Malisse, Belglum, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3, Orliver Rochus, Belglum, def. Nicolas Kief-er (21), Germany, 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3, Marat Safin (4), Russia, def. Novak Djokov-ic, Serbla-Montenegro, 6-0, 6-2, 6-1.

Women
First Round
Serena Williams (7), United States, def.
Jamille Pin, France, 6-1, 6-1.
Svetlana Kuznetsova (5), Russia, def. Jessia,
Jakirkland, United States, 6-1, 6-1.
Evgenia Linetskaya, Russia, def. Lubomira
urrilajcova, Slovakia, 6-4, 6-1.

Ergenia Lingskagu, Bursia, def. Lubomira Frabioli, Ziuliand (17), Colombia, def. Selima Sfar, Tunisia, 6-3,7-5 ma Sfar, Tunisia, 6-3,7-5 ma Sfar, Tunisia, 6-3,7-5 ma Sfar, Tunisia, 6-3,7-5 ma Sfar, Tunisia, 6-1,7-6 ma Sfar, Tunisia, 6-1,7-6 ma Sfar, Tunisia, 6-1,7-6 ma Sfar, Tunisia, 6-1,7-6 ma Sfar, 19-6 ma

Maria Kirilenko, Russia, def. Aniko Kapros

Maria Krilenko, Brussia, det Aniko Kapro, Tuesday's show court schedules Play begins en all courts at I am. CET Gaillermo Coria (Ob. Argeritina, vs. Tomas Gaillermo Coria (Ob. Argeritina, vs. Tomas Aniko Adolik (10), Australia, vs. Anabel Men Aniko Adolik (10), Australia, vs. Anabel Men Aniko Adolik (10), Australia, vs. Anabel Men Aniko Adolik (10), Australia, vs. Anabel Aniko Carlo (10), Australia, vs. Aniko (2), United States (2), United States (2), United States (2), United States (2), Australia, vs. Aniko (2), United States (3), Australia, vs. Aniko (4), Australia, vs. Aniko (5), Australia, vs. Aniko (6), Aniko (6),

iams (8), United States

Margaret Court Arena
Juan Ignacio Chela (25), Argentina, vs.
Wayne Arthurs, Australia
Julien Benneteau, France, vs. Rafael Nadal,
Spain
Nicola Post

Spain
Nicole Pratt, Australia, vs. Jelena Jankovic
(23), Serbia-Montenegro
Not before 9:30 p.m. CET Tuesday
Tim Henman (7), Britain, vs. Cyril Saulnier,
France

Singh birdies 18th to win Sony Open by one over Els

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Two weeks into a long year, Vijay Singh already was feeling the heat.

Coming off one of the greatest seasons in golf, the 41-year-old Fijian knew expectations would be higher than ever. It didn't help that last week he took triple bogey on the back nine, which ultimately cost him a chance to with the season-opening Mercedes

Championships.

Singh was breathing easy late
Sunday afternoon when he
capped a flawless final round
with a routine birdie on the 18th
hole to win the Sony Open by one
shot over hard-charging Ernie
Fls.

"Everybody thinks, Is he going to win again? That could work against me," Singh said. "It think this is going to help. This is agreat relief that I can start breathing again and go and play more comfortable the rest of the season. I'm looking forward to the rest of it. This is what I needed."

What he needed at breezy Waialae Country Club was the perfect tee shot, and that's what he delivered.

Els had already completed his record-tying 62 with a birdie-birdie-eagle finish, the last one an 18-foot putt that allowed the Big Easy to post a score at 10 under par, tied for the lead.

The roar from the crowd after the eagle putt was so loud that it reached Singh, who was playing the 12th hole and suddenly knew exactly what happened — and what he had to do.

"I had six holes to go. I said, 'I need a birdie without a bogey, and I think I can win it,' " Singh said.

He followed with five pars, then picked up his first birdie of



Vijay Singh birdied No. 18 for the first time in the final round of the tournament to win the Sony Open.

the week on the par-5 18th. It wasn't easy, because Singh struggles with a draw off the tee, and anything too far to the right will run into the rough.

"To hit it where I did today, I could take another bucket of balls and not to be able to hit that shot," Singh said. "I think it came out just perfect."

His utility club came up just short and 30 feet to the right, and Singh was able to use his putter

from the first cut to roll the eagle putt to within 2 feet of the hole. Singh finished at 11-under 269 for his 25th career victory, and

the earliest he has won on tour.
It was a valiant bid by Els to
win an umprecedented third
straight Sony Open. He again
missed several easy birdie putts
duping the week and group for

missed several easy birdle putts during the week, and even a few on Sunday, but rallied with an amazing finish that kept everyone in suspense until Singh blistered his final drive. Els made a 10-footer for birdie on the 16th, knocked a 6-iron to within 3 feet on the 17th, then reached the 18th green with a

3-iron and holed the 18-foot eagle. "I always felt I was going to be just a little shy," Els said.

"But I still had a great day. Vijay looked like he was playing solid. He didn't miss a fairway or a green coming in. He did what he had to do."

No one else did.

Shigeki Maruyama had a one-shot lead at the start of the final round, and a small army of Japanese fans who cheered every shot, from his drives to his tap-ins. But after making a birdie at No. 10 for a one-shot lead, he caved in.

First came a wayward tee shot into the rough and behind the trees at No. 12, leading to bogey. Then came an approach that sailed into the crowd on No. 14, and Maruyama had to make a 10-footer just to make bogey.

He never recovered, closing with a 71 to tie for third at 9-under 271 with Charles Howell III (67).

Brett Quigley stumbled early with three straight bogeys, then rallied to get a share of the lead with a 15-foot putt on the 11th hole. But he, too, struggled to find the short grass and it caught up with him on No. 14, where he made bogey. Quigley later missed a 4-foot par putt on the 17th, ending his hopes.

He wound up with a 71 and was at 8-under 272, along with Stewart Cink (65).

The Sony Open waited 20 years to get the No. 1 player in the

world. Then, it treated Singh like a forgotten man until he had a lei around his neck and the trophy in his hand. First came 15-year-old Michelle Wie, the center of atten-

Michelle Wie, the center of attention until she missed the cut with rounds of 75-74. Then it was Maruyama, as popular as anyone because of so many Japanese fans on the island. But seeing Singh's name on the

leader board got everyone's atten-

"He's at the top of his game right now," Els said. "He's swinging well, he's doing everything really good. With all that talent. he's

not going to go away."

All Singh wanted to do was remind everyone he was still there.

Rangers, 2B Soriano agree to one-year, \$7.5 million contract

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas
All-Star second baseman Alfonso
Soriano and the Texas Rangers
agreed Monday to a \$7.5 million,
one-year contract, a raise of \$2.1
million.

Soriano came to the Rangers in last February's trade that sent Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees. Soriano hit. 280 with 28 homers and 91 RBIs last year, missing the last 16 games of the season because of a strained left hamstring.

Daniels said the team could speak with Soriano later about a longterm deal. Soriano is eligible for free agency after the 2006 season. Texas has two players remain-

ing in arbitration: outfielder Gary Matthews Jr. and right-hander Carlos Almanzar. Players and teams are set to swap proposed salaries Tuesday, with hearings to be scheduled for next month. Matthews started 77 games.

Mattnews started // games, had a team-high eight outfield assists and hit .275 with 11 homers, the second-highest total in his career. Almanzar was 7-3 with a 3.72 ERA in 67 games.

Sports briefs

RHP Armas, Nationals agree to one-year contract

WASHINGTON — Right-hander Tony Armas Jr. and the Washington Nationals agreed to a \$2.26 million, one-year contract Sunday, avoiding arbitration.

Armas is 32-41 with a 4.21 ERA in 102 starts spanning six seasons with Montreal, including 2-4 with a 4.88 ERA in 16 starts last year. His 2003 season ended in May with surgery on his pitching shoulder, which delayed his 2004 debut until June 1.

Armas, who made \$2.1 million last year, and Nationals right-hander Tomo Ohka filed for arbitration Friday. Unless they reach a deal first, Ohka and the Nationals will exchange figures Tuesday.

Twins re-sign Romero, sign free-agent infielder Munson

MINNEAPOLIS — Left-handed reliever J.C. Romero and free-agent infielder Eric Munson agreed to contracts with the Minnesota Twins on Sunday.

Romero, who was eligible for arbitration, agreed to a two-year deal with a club option for a third, Twins spokesman Sean Harlin said. Munson was given a minor league deal.

The 28-year-old Romero went 7-4 with an ERA of 3.51 in 74 appearances for Minnesota last season. In six seasons, all with the Twins, he is 21-17 with 22 saves and a 4.49 ERA.

Munson became a free agent when the Detroit Tigers did not offer him a contract after last season. He hit .212 with 19 home runs and 49 RBIs in 2004.

The deals were originally announced on WCCO Radio by manager Ron Gardenhire and pitching coach Rick Anderson as part of the Twins Winter Caravan, an annual promotional bus tour for the team and its broadcast net-

Pitt starter Demetris suspended indefinitely

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh starting guard Yuri Demetris was suspended indefinitely Sunday for disciplinary reasons.

Coach Jamie Dixon said in a statement that Demetris would

not practice while serving the suspension. Dixon did not indicate when or if Demetris would rejoin the No. 20 Panthers (12-2, 2-1 Big

"Discipline and proper behavior must remain the foundation of our program," Dixon said. Demetris, a 6-foot-4 senior from Pittsburgh, has started all

14 games and ranks fifth on the team in minutes played. He's averaging 3.8 points and 3.4 rebounds. He did not score but had seven rebounds in 21 minutes Saturday in a 67-63 victory over Seton Hall.

Pitt plays at St. John's on Tuesday and at No. 12 Connecticut on Saturday.

TCU's Irvin blocks Division I record 16 shots

FORT WORTH, Texas TCU's Sandora Irvin set an NCAA Division I record with 16 blocked shots in the Lady Frogo 75-34 win over UAB on Sunday. Irvin also had 20 points and 18 rebounds for the first triple-double in school history. Irvin broke the NCAA women's

Irvin broke the NCAA women's record of 15 that Amy Lundquist of Loyola Marymount set in December 1992 against Western Kentucky. The NCAA men's record of 14 is held by four players, including David Robinson

and Shawn Bradley.
TCU (13-5, 4-0 Conference
USA) trailed 7-2 just three minutes into the game, then went on
a 44-1 run to take a 46-8 halftime
lead. The Lady Blazers (4-13, 1-3)
ended a 19-minute scores
drought when Lauren Brittingham scored with 18:16 left in the
game.
TCU finished the night with 19

TCU finished the night with 19 blocked shots to tie the NCAA women's record for a team.

Memphis forward Banks ineligible for rest of season

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Memphis sophomore forward Sean Banks will sit out of the rest of the season after being declared academically ineligible.

Banks, who started 10 games this season and was averaging 14.5 points and 5.8 rebounds, said he hopes to take classes at another school to help regain his eligibility.

"I'm sorry that I let my teammates, coaches, Coach (John) Calipari, the university and the city of Memphis down," Banks said Sunday. "The situation I am in is my own fault."

First-place Sonics finding that their options are open

The Associated Press

SEATTLE - Luke Ridnour is giving the Seattle SuperSonics another viable scoring option in Rashard Lewis' absence.

Ridnour scored a career-high 18 points as the Sonics overtook the tired Cleveland Cavaliers in the third quarter and then held them off in the fourth period for a 105-97 victory Sunday night

Ridnour, who came to the NBA NBA roundup

last year after playing three seasons at Ore gon, scored eight of his points in the fourth quar

ter, including six free throws in the final minute. The win was Seattle's second straight without Lewis, who's sidelined with tendinitis in his left knee.

"It was just a game that we needed to get without Rashard, Ridnour said. "This was a big win for our team."

LeBron James had 35 points on 14-for-30 shooting and 11 assists, while Drew Gooden finished with 27 points for Cleveland

Ray Allen, who led the Sonics with 27 points, told James the Cavs were fouling the wrong play-

"At the end of the game, they're keeping me from going to the free-throw line and shooting free throws, but I've got Luke who shoots as well or better percent-age-wise," Allen said. "I told LeBron. You should be double-teaming Luke and let me come to the ball because he shoots it better than I do.' So you've got to pick your poison."

Ridnour sank all nine free throw attempts he took in the game, which improved first-place Seattle's record to 27-9. "As a team, we're a pretty good

free-throw shooting team," he said. "So when it comes down to the line, you want to be able to knock them down."

Vladimir Radmanovic had 23 points and 11 rebounds, while Antonio Daniels, starting in place of Lewis, had 15 points.

The Sonics outrebounded the Cavs 50-31.

"That was big," Sonics coach



SuperSonics guard Ray Allen (34) goes up for a shot as the Cavaliers' Zydrunas Ilgauskas defends during the second quarter in Seattle.

Nate McMillan said, "We scored more second-chance points, and I thought that was the difference in the game.'

Allen said the play of Rad-manovic — one of Seattle's primary reserves - was the key to the Sonics' win, their fourth in five games.

"Vlade has a focus about him that he knows he's being counted on," Allen said. "He knows he's going to get shots. He's a big weapon for us

James, making his second trip to Seattle, agreed with Allen. "They got a great contribution

off the bench from Vladimir," he said. "I've been watching what he's been doing all year and we knew he can shoot the ball real well. He's a threat to any team that comes in here.

Allen, the league's No. 7 scorer, had seven points in the fourth quarter to help hold off the Cavs

Allen drove the baseline and hit a 5-footer with 1:38 remaining,

giving Seattle a 94-88 lead, then equaled James' three-pointer with one of his own with 1:12 left to put the Sonics up 97-91.

The fourth quarter is my time I feel," Allen said. "Whether I make a shot or not, I'm going to do something. I'm going to be heard or seen in the fourth quar-

Raptors 102, Hornets 99: At Toronto, Chris Bosh had 24 points, 10 rebounds and two key blocks down the stretch for the Raptors.

New Orleans point guard Baron Davis left late in the third quarter with a bruised right ankle and did not return.

Lee Nailon scored a ca-reer-high 32 points for the Hornets but missed two shots and had two blocked by Bosh in the final three minutes.

Morris Peterson had 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who are 7-7 since trading Vince Carter to New Jersey on Dec 17.

NBA scorehoard

Eastern Conference

rision 22 14 22 14 18 17 16 18 12 23

Western Conference

Solden State
Sunday's games
Toronto 102, New Orleans 99
Seattle 105, Cleveland 97
Monday's games
Chicago at New York
Milwaukee at Charlotte
New Jersey at Atlanta
New Orleans at Philadelphia
Phoenix at Detroit
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers
Washington at San Antonio

Chicago at Boston New York at Toronto Philadelphia at Charlotte Atlanta at Miami Milwaukee at New Jersey Indiana at New Orleans New Orleans rs at San Antonio L.A. Clippers at San A.. Memphis at Phoenix Cleveland at Portland Minnesota at L.A. Lake

Raptors 102, Hornets 99

NEW ORLEANS — Nailon 14-20 4-4 32, Rog-ers 1-8 0-0 3, Brown 3-7 3-6 9, Smith 6-13 0-1 15, Davis 6-17 0-1 15, Andersen 8-14 1-1 17, Dickau 2-9 2-2 7, Nachbar 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 40-90 11-17 99.

Toronto 26 21 19 36–102 Three-Point Goals—New Orleans 8-28 Davis 3-7, Smith 3-9, Rogers 1-4, Dickau 1-7, lachbar 0-1), Toronto 10-18 (Peterson 5-7, Nachbar 0-1), Toronto IB-18 (Peterson 5-7, Rose 2-4, Murray 1-1, Bonner 1-1, Marshall 1-2, Alston 6-3), Fouled out -None, Rebound-s-New Orleans 46, Andersen 9), Toronto 58 (Peterson, Bosh 10), Assists-New Orleans 30 (Davis 11), Toronto 19 (Alston 7), Total fouls-New Orleans 22, Toronto 17. Techni-calis-Nalion, Toronto Defensive Three Sec-ond, A-14422 (19,800).

Sonics 105, Cavaliers 97

CONCIS 105, Cavaliers 97
CLEVELMO - Gooden 9:13 9:10 27,
Llames 14:30 46 85, Ilguards 3-7, 8-81 11
3-3 5, Traylor 3-0 0, 1, laris 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Paviovic 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Paviovic 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Paviovic 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Paviovic 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Paviovic 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Paviovic 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Paviovic 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Paviovic 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0-64,
Spow 1-2, 0-0 2, Totals 3-7, 0

Three-Point Goals—Cleveland 3-13 (Liames 3-7, Haris 0-1, McInnis 0-5), Seattle 10-22 (Radmanovic 5-7, Allen 3-9, Daniels 1-2, Son, Rebounds—Cleveland 48 (Newble 8), Seattle 55 (Radmanovic 11), Assists—Cleve-land 22 (Liames 11), Seattle 18 (Daniels 8), Total fouls—Cleveland 31, Seattle 28 Techni-cals—Newble, James A. 1-1702 (17072).

NBA calendar

Feb. 18-20 — All-Star weekend, Denver. Feb. 24 — Trading deadline, 3 p.m. EST. April 20 – Regular season ends. April 23 — Playoffs begin. June 7-10 — NBA predraft camp, Chicago. June 9 — Earliest possible NBA Finals start

June 21 - Early entry draft withdrawal June 23 — Latest possible NBA Finals end

ne 28 - NRA Draft, New York

Wizards' Hughes to miss 4-6 weeks

By JOSEPH WHITE The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - NBA steals leader Larry Hughes was diagnosed Sunday with a broken right thumb and will miss four to six weeks, the first real crisis to hit a Washington Wizards team off to its best start in decades.

Hughes was hurt when his thumb was hit by Quentin Richardson while driving for a layup in the final minutes of Saturday night's victory over the Phoe-

NBA briefs nix Suns. "This is a difficult loss

for our team. coach Eddie Jordan said. "We certainly feel for Larry, who has played a big part in our team's success. We have confidence in our team to overcome a setback

Hughes is one of the so-called Big Three, along with Antawn Jamison and Gilbert Arenas, who have led the Wizards (22-13) to seven straight wins in their best start since the 1978-79 season.

Hughes isn the only NBA player averaging more than 20 points (21.2), five rebounds (6.1), five assists (5.3) and 2.5 steals (2.82) all career highs for the seventh-year player from Saint

"I am very disappointed that this happened, but I have full confidence that my teammates will play well while I'm out," Hughes said. "I look forward to getting back as soon as possible."

The Wizards have entered a difficult part of the schedule, with a two-game road trip to Texas and road games against Indiana and Cleveland in eight days. Without a consistent low-post scoring threat, the team had regularly needed each of the Big Three to contribute every game.

Now it's a Big Two plus Juan Dixon, who is expected to start in Hughes' spot at shooting guard. Dixon has played well in the past two games, scoring 13 points against Milwaukee and 26 against Phoenix. Anthony Peeler and Laron Profit would back up

The Wizards have constantly been victims of bad decisions and bad luck since the 1980s. Last season was derailed by long-term injuries to Hughes, Arenas and Jerry Stackhouse.

NBA fines Alston

NEW YORK - Toronto Raptors guard Rafer Alston was fined \$7,500 by the NBA on Sunday for verbally abusing a game official Friday night in Philadelphia.

Alston had 11 points and 13 assists in Toronto's 106-96 loss to the 76ers.



Top seeds will play for conference titles

BY BARRY WILNER

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles have been here often. It's not where they want to

stay.

The Eagles advanced to their fourth straight NFC championship game Sunday with a 27-14 romp past the inept Minnesota Vi-

kings.

They will also host their third conference title game in a row, a league record, when they meet Atlanta on Sunday. The Falcons routed St. Louis 47-17 on Saturday.

For the next week, Eagles fans will wring their hands, furrow their brows and deal with the angst of Philadelphia's last three failed attempts to make their first Super Bowl since 1981.

"We are excited about this win, but we are excited about moving on," Donovan McNabb said after

throwing two touchdown passes.

The AFC championship match-

up is a rematch of a Halloween game in Pittsburgh, when the Steelers beat the Patriots. This weekend, New England took apart Indianapolis 20-3 and Pittsburgh survived against the New

York Jets 20-17 in overtime. In October, Pittsburgh won 34-20 to end the Patriots' record 21-game winning streak. The Patriots beat the host Steelers in the 2001 AFC title game, then won their first of two Super Bowls in

the last three years.

"We played our best 30 minutes of football in the second
half," coach Bill Belichick said of
Sunday's domination of Indianapolis and league MVP Peyton Manning, "Ran the ball, converted
third downs, played good de-

The Eagles are 4½-point favorites, while the visiting Patriots are 3-point choices. Both games feature the top two seeds in each conference.

NFC
The last time the Falcons (12-5)

met the Eagles (14-3) in the postseason two years ago, Philadelphia won a night game 20-6.

Back then, the Falcons were coached by Dan Reeves and were coming off a historic victory at Green Bay, the first team to win a postseason road game against the Packers. These Falcons have the NFLs top rushing offense, with quarterback Michael Vick and RBs Warrick Dum and T.J. Ducket, and new coach Jim Mora has revamped and revitalized the de-

"This is a totally different team than was here, with a different feel and a different look," Pro Bowl linebacker Keith Brooking said. "But it is similar in the sense that we are making plays when we need to"

Philadelphia has made the big plays all season and did so again Sunday even without All-Pro receiver and sparkplug Terrell

Owens.

The Eagles play the run pretty
well, but do they have the right

personnel to deal with the merci rial Vick?

"They're doing a good job with ball control," All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins said, "so we're going to have our hands full, especially with their quarterback."

And how well can the Eagles protect McNabb against a defense that pressures quarterbacks so well?

"We're confident and loose," said do-everything running back Brian Westbrook. "We don't have any reason not to be loose."

AFC
Judging by their play this weekend, the Patriots (15-2) seem ready for another Super Bowl trip, and the Steelers (16-1) seem

"It definitely tests your faith,"
running back Duce Staley said

after the close call.

But Pittsburgh was plucky enough to survive, and underestimating such a well-coached and physical team would be a mis-

The Steelers will need their hard-driving running game featuring Staley and Jerome Bettis to be at its peak. Offensive Rook of the Year Ben Roethlisberger struggled against the Jets, and the Patriots bring even more confusing looks and experience in pressure sames.

Not that coach Bill Cowher fears Roethlisberger has been un-

"Ben is unflappable. He does display a calmness. . . . You still have a sense that he's going to get it done," Cowher said.

It's the same sense everyone should have about New England, which was supposed to have problems matching up with the high-flying Colts. The nasty weather certainly helped the Patrots, but they so befuddled Manning that if the game had been played on the Jacksonville beach in August, it might not have mattered.

"We rattled them all game," linebacker Tedy Bruschi said. "That's what we do best."

Steelers look to capitalize on second shot

BY ALAN ROBINSON The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roethlisberger made enough mistakes to fill a blooper show, and perhaps even stirred doubts

among Steelers veterans who have believed in him so strongly all season. Just when the imperfect-but-unbeaten rookie seemed to have run out of ways and big plays to keep his winning streak going.

he somehow got the Steelers to another Sunday — and a rematch with the Patriots. Unlike Jets kicker Doug Brien, whose twin misses doomed New York on Saturday, Roethlisberger plans to make some-

thing of his second chance.
"It wasn't me out there," Roethlisberger said after the Steelers beat the Jets 20-17 in overtime and advanced to Sunday's APC championship game against New England. "It was tough going, and I did everything I could to lose the game."

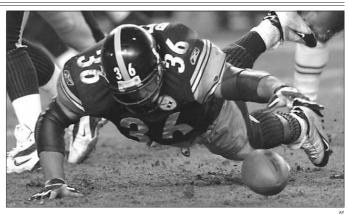
Not that Roethlisberger knows much about losing. He is 14-0 in the NFL and has won 27 in a row dating to last season at Miami of Ohio, though he admittedly was more lucky than good.

"This was terrible," he said.

Bill Cowher didn't disagree with that assessment, though the Steelers coach said, "Ben is unflappable. He does display a calmness. . . . You still have a sense that he's going to get it done."

Now Roethlisherger will try to become the first rookie (9 Ro loed his team to the Super Bowl — the Steelers will host the APC title game for the fifth time in 11 seasons. They have won their last seven wild-card or divisional home playoff games, but are 1-3 in APC championship games under Cowher, losing to San Diego (1994 season), Denver (1997) and New England (2001).

The Steelers beat the Patriots 34-20 on Oct. 31, seizing a 24-3 lead in ending New England's record 21-game winning streak. Now, the Patriots have a chance to end Pittsburgh's 15-game run, which trails only the unbeaten 1972 Dolphins' 17-game streak as the longest in one season.



Steelers running back Jerome Bettis fumbles early in the fourth quarter of Sunday's divisional playoff game, killing a Pittsburgh drive.

There are other streaks at stake, too — Roethlisberger's unbeaten run and Patriots quarterback Tom Brady's 7-0 record in the postseason.

The Steelers (15-1 during the season) game down from End over the Patriots (14-2) because of their earlier victory. It's the first time in AFC championship game history that each finalist has no more than two losses, though such a matchup occurred in the January 1999 NFC final pairing Minnesota (15-1) and Atlanta (14-2).

Roethlisberger made the kind of errors a rookie quarterback is supposed to make in the playoffs Saturday: an interception that was returned for a touchdown and another that led to the second of Brien's two missed field goals in the final 2 minutes of the fourth quarter.

Still, despite breakdowns that probably should have halted the Steelers' magical season, Roethlisberger led late scoring drives that ended with his game-tying shovel pass touchdown to Hines Ward and Jeff Reed's decisive 33-yard field goal in overtime.

Roethlisberger denied his right hand is hurting, though he looked to be shaking it in pain during warmups and again wore a glove to cover it. But his denial almost seemed to be a confirmation something is wrong: "I am not going to use any excuses. It offer?"

It's me."
Even if his play wasn't. Roethlisberger
was 17-for-30 for 181 yards and a 57.8 passer rating in the Steelers' first overtime playoff win since they upset Houston 26-23 on

Dec. 31, 1989.

"I just remembered to stay focused, stay in the game." he said.

It was mostly Brien who kept the Steelers in it. Brien missed a 47-yarder with 1:58 left in the fourth quarter and then a 43-yarder on the final play of regulation, both into the wind at the closed end of the stadium.

Heinz Field's unstable turf and shifting crosswinds have perplexed kickers since the stadium's opening in 2001. But, until Saturday, opposing kickers were 11-of-12 this season — including Brien's 2-of-2 on Dec. 12, both from beyond 40 yards.

"I don't feel bad for him because I wanted to win the game, but I feel bad for him as a kicker," Reed said.

The Steelers seemed headed for a divi-

sional-round loss remarkably similar to their 34-31 overtime defeat at Tennessee two seasons ago. Then, the Titans Joe Nedney missed a 31-yarder but, given a second chance when Dewayne Washington was flagged for running into the kicker, hit the game-winning 26-yarder.

Reed came away with the football he

kicked to end the game. He packed it securely in his duffel bag — coincidentally or not, right beside his Bible.

"It definitely tests your faith," running back Duce Staley said.

'Clock-killin' Dillon' thrives in playoff debut

BY JIMMY GOLEN The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. - This is why Corey Dillon wanted to get out of Cincinnati. It's also why the New England Patriots wanted to

Dillon carried 23 times for 144 yards in his playoff debut Sunday to help the Patriots advance to the AFC championship game with a 20-3 victory over the Indianapolis Colts. The only thing between them and a third conference title in four years are the Pittsburgh who beat New England on Halloween when Dillon was out with a thigh injury

"I'm certainly glad Corey's going to be there," quarterback Tom Brady said. "I know he's glad he's here; he's told us that a bunch of times. And we're glad to have him.

Dillon played the first seven years of his career with the woeful Bengals, racking up big yards but also admitting that year after year of losing got him down. Before the Patriots traded a second-round draft pick for him in April. Dillon had to convince them that he wasn't a malcontent

"There's not a day goes by I don't grab those guys and say, 'Thank you,' " Dillon said. "I'm se-rious. They'll tell you, too. They're probably a little annoyed



New England Patriots RB Corev Dillon (28) fends off Indianapolis Colts' Raheem Brock on a first-quarter run Sunday in Foxboro, Mass. Dillon carried 23 times for 144 yards in the Patriots' 20-3 victory over the Colts.

"I do it just to let them know I appreciate them believing in me. I'm just ecstatic about being in

this situation.' New England fans let him know the feeling is mutual, chanting, "Corey! Corey!" as the clock wound down. Dillon's teammates agree: Linebacker Ted Johnson said after the game he was heading to the souvenir stand to buy a No. 28 jersey.

One teammate needled him by calling him "Clock-killin' Dillon Another led him into the locker room by telling the waiting report-"Here comes the man of the since joining the defending Super Bowl champions. He's also given the Patriots the running game they lacked even as they won two NFL titles in the previous three

"Who wouldn't be excited about having a Pro Bowl player come to your offense. He came in and worked hard. He's a great leader and he's got a great attitude," Brady said.

"I don't care what someone's reputation is. When you come to this team, you fit in, Corey had a great attitude coming in, and it's

just gotten better." And so have the Patriots who used him to replace the steady unspectacular Antowain

Smith Dillon ran for 1 635 yards during the regular season — a career high, a franchise record and the third-most in the NFL. His 12 rushing touchdowns were also a personal best, as were his nine games this season with 100 yards

or more But he could have done most of that in Cincinnati. What he really came to New England for was a game like Sunday's.

"He was excited. He probably had butterflies," fullback Patrick Pass said, "He wanted a taste of what we went through the past two out of three years.

With Dillon sharing the carries

times for 56 yards on Sunday, the Patriots didn't have to rely on Brady as much while milking the clock with 14-, 15- and 16-play

"I think he's really going to take the pressure off Tom," Pass said. "I just knew he would have a good game. He's our go-to guy

Dillon didn't really get going until the end of the first quarter, when the Patriots took over at their own 16 and he ran on three consecutive plays to put the ball on the 36. The drive set up a field goal that gave the Patriots a 3-0

On their next possession, Dillon broke free for a 42-yard gain that gave them their only yardage of the drive before Vinatieri made it 6-0. Dillon ran six times for 26 yards to help set up the third-quarter touchdown t gave New England a 13-3 lead that

That gave the Patriots a lead to protect, and Dillon was just the one to do it.

Starting on their own 6 with 14:34 left in the game, the Patriots moved to the Colts 28 before Dillon ran into a pack, changed direction and then broke free around the left side. He dove at the pylon but was ruled out of bounds at the 1; Brady's sneak made it 20-3

Dillon also led the Patriots with five catches, though they only went for seven vards.

Pats: Colts fail to win again at Foxboro

PATS. FROM BACK PAGE

kept Manning on the sideline, while Brady threw for one touchdown, ran for another and completed 18 passes in 27 attempts for 144 yards.

"I'm not even recognizing my last seven seasons right now," said Dillon, who spent them with Cincinnati. "It's all about this year."

New England (15-2) led 6-0 on Adam Vinatieri's field goals of 24 and 31 yards in the second quarter with the first one capping a 16-play, 78-yard march that lasted 9 minutes, 7

"We played our best 30 min-utes of football in the second half," Belichick said. "Ran the ball, converted third downs, played good defense

Indianapolis (13-5) scored on Mike Vanderjagt's 23-yard field goal on the last play of the

first half. "We just ran into a better

team today," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "That's one thing about them. They find a way to win. We felt pretty good sitting 6-3 at the half When Brady threw a 5-yard

scoring pass to David Givens to cap a third-quarter drive that lasted 8:16, Manning had to make his remaining possescount against hard-hitting defense

He didn't - and Brady followed with a 94-yard drive that ended with his 1-yard touchdown run.

Facing a 20-3 deficit with 7:10 left, there was little that even Manning could do.

The Patriots proved once again they could win without their best defenders. Pro Bowl defensive lineman Richard Seymour was sidelined with a knee injury, and starting cor-nerbacks Ty Law and Tyrone Poole are on injured reserve. But the Patriots' defense still stifled the fifth-highest scoring team in NFL history.

"It was just the best game nlan that we've had since I've been here," Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said.

Belichick had nothing but praise for his makeshift sec-

ondary. "They played very well.

There's nothing magical. They rushed them. They jammed them. They tackled them. They covered them," he said.

The season ended for the Colts right where it started. They lost the opener in Foxboro 27-24 when Vanderjagt missed a 48-yard field goal attempt in the final minute. The Colts have now lost six straight to New England and nine

straight in Foxboro. And for the Patriots, the road to the Super Bowl once again runs through Pittsburgh. where they won the AFC title

49ers hire Ravens' Nolan as head coach

The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - Baltimore defensive coordinator Mike Nolan accepted the San Francisco 49ers' head coaching position Monday and began to negotiate a contract to take over the team that had the NFL's worst record last season. Nolan, a longtime coordinator

for four teams who has never been a head coach, will replace Dennis Erickson, fired earlier in the month after going 9-23 in two seasons out of the playoffs. San Francisco went 2-14 this season.

After wowing 49ers John York in an interview Thursday. Nolan accepted the offer Monday and flew to York's home in Ohio to work out a contract.

"[York] had a good strong list of candidates, and they felt that Mike was the perfect candidate to lead us into the future." 49ers spokesman Kirk Revnolds said.

Nolan earned the chance to follow in the footsteps of his father, Dick, who went 54-53-5 in eight seasons as the 49ers' coach from 1968-75, winning three straight division championships and reaching two NFC title games while getting the first playoff wins in franchise history

Mike Nolan, 45, has been in charge of the Ravens' powerful defense since 2001, following stints as the coordinator with the New York Jets (2000), Washington (1997-99) and the New York Giants (1993-96). Baltimore

ranked sixth in the NFL in total defense last season. Terry General manager

Donahue was fired along with Erickson, and Nolan will have a hand in picking Donahue's successor as York rebuilds the once-proud franchise, which will have the top pick in the next

York, who didn't return a call seeking comment, has said he planned to hire a coach with broad powers, supplemented by a general manager who concentrates on salary cap issues

Nolan will be the 15th head coach in 49ers history.

Nolan was interviewed by York and two of the few remaining members of the 49ers' front of fice. He was offered the job Mon-

day morning, beating out four other candidates: New England defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel, thought to be Cleveland's top choice; Giants defen-sive coordinator Tim Lewis; and

Tennessee coordinators Mike Heimerdinger and Jim Schwartz Southern California coach Pete Carroll, thought to be York's top choice after he fired Erickson, an parently was never contacted by the 49ers after initially saying he

wasn't interested. Nolan is a protege of Dan Reeves, who hired the former Oregon safety for his first NFL job with the Denver Broncos in 1987 He was a hot candidate for several head coaching spots in recent

years, but his star had cooled slightly until the 49ers became in-

Ex-Raider Robbins critically wounded by police Robbins, 31, was confronted in a sec-

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. - Former Oakland Raiders center Barret Robbins was shot and critically wounded during a struggle with a po lice officer investigating a burglary at a South Beach office building

Robbins, a former All-Pro known best for going AWOL during the 2003 Super Bowl and other erratic behavior, was hospitalized in crit-

Robbins was shot several times in the torso during a "violent struggle" with a Miami Beach detective Saturday night, police spokesman Bobby Hernandez said.

"The officer was literally fighting for his life, trying to get Mr. Robbins from getting his gun. That's when the shots rang out," Hernanond-floor office in a building that also houses a nightclub, gym and jewelry store. He was considered a burglary suspect, though no charges had been filed, Hernandez said. "We just have to figure out what he was

doing there " Hernandez said

Hernandez said authorities had not been able to interview Robbins, but that the former offensive lineman was expected to face a charge of battery on a police officer. Hernandez also said police were trying to determine whether he would face trespassing or burglary charges.

Detective Mike Muley, who fired the shots had minor head injuries from the scuffle and was treated at a hospital and released.

Robbins was taken to Ryder Trauma Cen-

ter at Jackson Memorial Hospital. Hernandez did not immediately have Robbins' condition Sunday, and a hospital official did not immediately return a page.

Robbins was arrested last month in San Francisco for hitting a security guard at a night club The often-troubled player is best remem-

bered for disappearing the night before the 2003 Super Bowl in San Diego. He spent Super Bowl Sunday in a hospital and later acknowledged that he had stopped taking his medicine for depression and bipolar disorder. The Raiders lost 48-21 to Tampa Bay.

Robbins was released by Oakland in July, a week after he and two other players were fined three game checks for testing positive for the steroid THG

Moss, Minnesota mess up chances in Philly

BY DAVE CAMPBELL The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - Randy Moss had an excused absence

Minnesota's star receiver was mistakenly pulled off the field for a fake field goal, and the Vikings misfired when it counted most on Sunday, squandering their chance to advance to the NFC championship game with a 27-14 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles.

"That's how football goes, quarterback Daunte Culpepper said. "You've got to be able to play mistake-free football, but if you do make mistakes you've got to be able to make up for it."

With all the pressure on their opponent in this divisional playoff game, the Vikings didn't take advantage of all the opportunities provided by an Eagles team that looked very beatable.

Culpepper threw two interceptions in Philadelphia's end of the field, and the defense committed four costly penalties, befitting the team's up-then-down, mostly disappointing season.

And then there was the botched fake, a crazy play sure to be remembered for a while by Vikings

Trailing 21-7. Minnesota faced fourth-and-goal at the 3-yard line with less than five minutes remaining in the first half. As the offense awaited word, several players motioned to coach Mike Tice to go for it.

The kicking team ran out though, Moss - who caught flak two weeks ago for leaving the field in frustration as the Vikings lined up for a desperation onside kick in Washington — jogged toward the sideline perpendicular to the goal line.

He stopped just before going out of bounds, however, and was ready to line up as an eligible receiver without anyone covering

Backup center Cory Withrow was on the field, unaware of plans for the fake, and coaches and teammates had to vell for Moss to come off to avoid a penalty for too many men on the field.

"I didn't hear the call," Withrow said.

Holder Gus Frerotte - Culpepper's backup — took the snap. jumped up, looked left to where Moss would've been, and had nobody open.

Frerotte was forced to throw the hall out of the end zone and the Eagles took over on downs.

"We'd love to have a chance to do it again," Frerotte said. "They probably didn't even know it was coming. If we'd have thrown a touchdown, it would've been 21-14 and we would have had all the momentum. It's just one of those things."

Moss declined to comment

after the game Minnesota, which started 5-1

before stumbling in the second half and finishing 8-8, began the season with high expectations This talented team was in just about every game, including a 27-16 loss to Philadelphia on Mon-



Minnesota Vikings' Randy Moss walks off the field after losing to the Philadelphia Eagles 27-14 in an NFC divisional playoff on Sunday. day night in September.

But whether it was a withering pass defense, ill-timed turnovers or just plain dumb mistakes, the Vikings always seemed to find

more ways to hurt themselves than their opponent. This game was no different.

"At this point, we're two steps past where we were last year.

said Culpepper, whose team fin-ished 3-7 in 2003 and missed the playoffs by losing on the final play of an 18-17 defeat against Arizona. "Next year, if we improve two more steps we're in the championship."

Dontarrious Thomas, Willie Offord, Ralph Brown and Antoine Winfield were called for penalties that totaled 83 yards and led to first downs on Eagles scoring drives

A holding penalty on Thomas gave the Eagles a first down at the Minnesota 31 midway through the first quarter after an incompletion on third-and-6. Philadelphia took a 7-0 lead four plays later. Pass interference calls on Of-

ford and Winfield helped the Eagles drive 46 vards in just 29 seconds to go up 21-7 early in the second.

Then Brown was flagged for pass interference on Todd Pinkston early in the fourth quarter, a 46-yarder that set up a field goal by David Akers that stretched the lead to 24-7.

Culpepper, who set team records with 39 touchdowns and 4,717 yards passing this season was flawless in last week's 31-17 win at Green Bay - throwing for four TDs without a turnover.

Against the blitz-happy Eagles and their defense laden with Pro Bowlers, Culpepper was off his game - throwing interceptions on consecutive possessions in the third quarter when the Vikings still had a chance to come back.

Eagles: Mitchell helps fill Owens' void

EAGLES. FROM BACK PAGE

The Eagles got plenty of help from the Vikings (9-9), who showed exactly why they lost seven of their last 10 regular-season games to back into the playoffs. Minnesota's high-powered of-fense couldn't handle defensive end Jevon Kearse and linebacker Jeremiah Trotter.

The inept Vikings botched a fake field goal, the defense committed four costly penalties and Culpepper turned it over twice.

"Mistakes, penalties at the wrong time, taking some points off the board, stopping a drive, having a nice play called back, said Vikings coach Mike Tice, rattling off Minnesota's miscues "We made some mistakes when we had a little bit of rhythm going. We didn't finish anything Kearse pressured and harassed

Culpepper throughout the game, and Lito Sheppard, Sheldon Brown and Rod Hood held Moss to just three catches for 51 yards.

When the Vikings drove, they found ways to stay out off the scoreboard. An offensive lineman remained on the field instead of Moss for a fake field goal, leaving no receivers to catch holder Gus Frerotte's pass in the second quar-

Culpepper, who had 39 TD passes and only 11 interceptions during the season, threw picks to

Reese and Trotter in Eagles territory in the third. With Owens watching from a

luxury box, Mitchell got the Eagles started, catching a 2-yard TD nass then mocking Moss' simulated mooning by pretending to pull his pants up.

Mitchell got lucky on his second TD, catching a fumble by tight end L.J. Smith in the end zone.

"I want to say 'Hi' to all my new friends out there, those people who doubted me and the receivsaid Mitchell, a former first-round pick known more for his nicknames — "Hollywood,"
"First-down Freddie," "The People's Champ," and "FredEx" than clutch catches.

Under Reid, the Eagles never have lost after a bye, and the regulars basically had three weeks of non-action. It didn't hurt, and Philly led 14-0 just 44 seconds into the second quarter.

Mitchell caught his TD pass from McNabb midway in the opening period, then did his reverse moon. Greg Lewis' graceful catch of a 52-yard throw set up Brian Westbrook's 7-yard TD reception, the versatile running back's first nostseason score: he was injured for last year's playoffs.

Moss, who was fined \$10,000 by the NFL for his fake mooning of the Green Bay crowd last weekend, didn't catch his first pass until 20 minutes in. Culpepper was sacked three times and befuldled nearly the entire game.

"You try to play mistake-free football," Culpepper said. "But when you do make mistakes, you got to do something to compensate for it The Vikings gained more on

one second-quarter play, a 40-yard pass to Marcus Robinson, than they managed in total before that. It sparked a drive that culminated in Culpepper's 7-vard scramble to make it 14-7.

But Minnesota immediately messed up again, J.R. Reed returned the kickoff to the Vikings 46, then Minnesota was hit for two pass interference calls. From the 14, McNabb found Smith over the middle, and Smith fumbled at 4. The ball shot directly to Mitchell, who caught it in the end zone for his second score.

"That just goes to show you things are going our way," Mc-Nabb said.

Only Mitchell's fourth-and-26 reception in the playoffs against Green Bay last January was more meaningful. That catch pretty much got the Eagles to the NFC title game, where they lost to

Minnesota got a 32-yard TD reception by Robinson with 1:59 remaining. By then, the Eagles were already thinking about Vick and the Falcons.

"It's going to be a challenge, but we're ready for it," Kearse

NFL scoreboard

Playoffs

Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 15 Pittsburgh 20, N.Y. Jets 17, OT Atlanta 47, St. Louis 17 Sunday, Jan. 16 Philadelphia 27, Minnesota 14

New England 20, Indianapolis 3 Conference Champior Sunday, Jan. 23 Atlanta at Philadelphia

Atianta at Philadelphia
New England at Pittsburgh
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 6
Jacksonville, Fla.
AFC vs. NFC

Pro Bowl

Sunday, Feb. 13 At H AFC vs. NFC

Sunday Eagles 27. Vikings 14

0 7 0 7-14 7 14 0 6-27

First Quarter
Phi—Mitchell 2 pass from McNabb (Akers ick), 6:18.

Second Quarter Second Quarter
Phi—Westbrook 7 pass from McNabb
(Akers kick), 14:16.
Min—Culpepper 7 run (Andersen kick),
10:37.
Phi—Mitchell fumble recovery in end zone
(Akers kick), 10:08.
Enurb Quarter

Fourth Quarter Phi—FG Akers 21, 13:20. rm-FG AKERS 21, 13:20. Phi—FG Akers 23, 6:39. Min—Robinson 32 pass from Culpepper Andersen kick), 1:59.

A-67,722. Total Net Yards

21-97 25-109 288 286 2-7 2-7 4-111 2-74 Passing Punt Returns Kickoff Returns Interceptions Ret. Comp-Att-Int Sacked-Yards Lost 0-0 2-38 24-47-2 21-33-0 3-28 1-0 4-34.8 3-37.3 Punts Fumbles-Lost Penalties-Yards Time of Possession

Rushing—Minnesota, Bennett 8-37, Smith 7-35, Culpepper 5-25, Moore 1-0. Philadel-phia, Westbrook 12-70, Levens 10-36, Mc-Nabb 3-3. INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Nabo 3-3.

Passing-Minnesota, Culpeppe 24-46-2-316, Frerotte 0-1-0-0. Philadelphia McNabb 21-33-0-286.

McNabb 21-33-0-286.

Receiving - Minnesota. Robinson 5-119.

Burleson 4-59. Smith 4-28, Moss 3-51, Wiggins 2-26, Moore 2-20, Bennett 2, (minus 1).

Berton 1-16. Campbell 1-7. Philadelphia.

Mitchell 5-69, Westbrook 5-47, Smith 4-52.

Phikston 3-46, Lewis 2-64, Parry 1-7, Levens

Missed field goals-None.

Patriots 20, Colts 3

0 3 0 0-3 0 6 7 7-20 Second Qua NE—FG Vinatieri 24, 10:40. NE—FG Vinatieri 31, 7:56.

Ind – FG Vanderjagt 23,:00.

Third Quarter

NE—Givens 5 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 1:30.

Fourth Quarter
Brady 1 run (Vinatieri kick), 7:10.

Ind Total Net Yards Rushes-yards Passing 230 115 Dunt D 0-0 2-28 Kickoff Returns Sacked-Yards Lost 1-8 3-29 Dunte 6-40 7 5-39 0

Rushing—Indianapolis, James 14-39, Man-ning 1-7. New England, Dillon 23-144, Faulk 11-56, Brady 4-6, Branch 1-4.

11-56, Brady 4-6, Branch 1-4.
Passing—Indianapolis.
27-42-0-28. New England, Brady 18-27-0-144.
Recebving—Indianapolis. Stockley 8-64, James 7-69, Harrison 5-44, Wayne 3-35, Clark 2-25, Pollard 1-2, Rhodes 1-funius 2J. New England, Dillon 5-17, Glvens 4-26, Brown 2-13, Fauria 1-17, Branch 1-15, Pass 1-14, Patter 1-12, Faulk 1-11, Carbaman 1-10, BJohnson 1-9, Missed field goals—None.



Ramstein sweeps MLK tourney titles

Left, Wiesbaden's Donnie Pearman (3) is stopped in the paint by Ramstein's Robert Batiste, left, and Austin Layton during the men's championship game of the Martin Luther King Community Basketball Tournament in Heidelberg, Germany, on Monday. Defending MLK tourney champion Ramstein defeated Wiesbaden 87-82.

> Right, Ramstein's Eboni Howard, puts up a shot during the women's championship game of the Martin Luther King tournament. Ramstein edged Heidelberg 54-53 for the title.

> > PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes





Illinois, Kansas 1-2 in Top 25 poll for seventh straight week

The Associated Press

Illinois and Kansas were ranked 1-2 in The Associated Press' college basketball poll Monday for the seventh straight week, the longest such run in 6 years.

The Illini (18-0) beat Penn State and Northwestern last week for the best start in school history. They received 58 first-place votes and 1,759 points from the national media panel.

Kansas (13-0) won road games

Rainsa (13-0) won road gaines against Iowa State and Colorado to hold second place for the ninth straight week — the Jayhawks were No. 1 in the preseason poll and the first of the regular season.

They were No. 1 on the 13 other ballots and had 1,710 points.

The last time two schools were 1-2 for this long was when Connecticut and Duke did it for 8 weeks in the 1998-99 season. They switched places the next two polls.

Wisconsin was the week's lone newcomer at No. 24, jumping back in after a five-week absence and replacing George Washington, which fell out from No. 21.

Wake Forest, Duke and Oklahoma State each moved up one spot to third through fifth, while North Carolina, which lost 95-82 to Wake Forest on Saturday, dropped from third to No. 6.

Syracuse stayed seventh and Kentucky moved up one spot to No. 8.

Boston College continued its impressive climb, moving to No. 9, its highest ranking since being seventh in the final poll of 2000-01.

The Eagles (14-0), along with Illinois, Kansas and Duke (13-0) the only unbeatens in Division I, moved into the rankings two weeks ago at No. 25, then jumped to 13th last week. The Eagles won 73-53 at West Virginia in their only game last week

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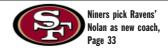






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SPORTS



No place like home

Patriots' defense stifles Colts once again

BY HOWARD ULMAN The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The quintessential quarterback keeps running into the quintessential team.

For the second year in a row, the New England Patriots mad MVP Peyton Manning look ordinary and his Indianapolis teammates inept, this time beating them 20-3 Sunday behind Corey Dillon's 144 yards rushing. The Pats held the ball nearly 38 minutes, leaving Manning hardly any time to work his magic.

"I think our defense is what made this game successful," Patriots quarterback Tom Brady said. "Three points to one of the best offenses in the history of football is incredible."

Manning's quarterbacking brilliance was neutralized as usual by Bill Belichick's punishing defense and the Colts' Super Bowl aspirations ended yet again on this snowy New England field.

"It was an excellent run, a fine year," Manning said. "But when you finish with a loss in the playoffs, you can't be happy about it. Eventually, it will be our time. ... All I can think about right now is losing this game."

Manning is now 0-7 in Foxboro. Brady is 7-0 in the postseason.

For the defending champions, one more win in Pittsburgh and it's on to Jacksonville, Fla., for their third Super Bowl trip in four years

Tedy Bruschi, Willie McGinest and the rest of the Patriots' defense spent the day frustrating Manning, who was 27-for-42 for 28 yards. In a stunning failure for the NFL's most prolific passing attack, the Colts managed only a field goal. "I don't have a clue," said Edg-

"I don't have a clue," said Edgerrin James, held to 39 yards rushing. "I really don't know what happened out there. I was just trying to do what I can do."

The conditions were just right for the Patriots' strategy: run the ball, throw short passes and watch the clock tick down. New England did just that, putting to-



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reacts after scoring a touchdown during the fourth quarter of their AFC divisional playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts on Sunday. The Patriots won 20-3.

gether its three most time-consuming drives of the season.

Manning's timing with his receivers was off from the begin ning, and the tone was set on the Colts' second series when a third-down pass went right through the hands of tight end Dallas Clark—a play that likely would have produced a first down

The cold temperatures couldn't have helped Indianapolis, which plays home games in the 72-degree warmth of the RCA Dome. Last year in Foxboro, Manning threw four interceptions in a

24-14 AFC title game loss.

Manning, who set NFL records with 49 touchdowns and a 121.1 passer rating in the regular season, delivered his worst performance this year, failing to throw a touchdown pass for the first time

on his way to a 69.3 rating.
As for the Patriots, Dillon keyed a ball-control offense that

SEE PATS ON PAGE 33



Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Freddie Mitchell, left, is congratulated by teammate Jon Runyan after scoring a touchdown in first quarter against the Vikings on Sunday. The Eagles won 27-14.

Eagles show no rust, make most of Vikings' miscues

BY ROB MAADDI

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Freddie Mitchell backed up his big mouth with a big game.

Mitchell did his best Terrell Owens impersonation with two touchdowns and a clever celebration, helping the Philadelphia Eagles advance to their fourth straight NFC championship game with a 27-14 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

And, just like Owens, the All-Pro wide receiver sidelined by an ankle injury, the loquacious Mitchell enjoyed the spotlight.

"I'm a special player," Mitchell said, wearing a cowboy hat and bow tie. "I'm just going to take advantage of every opportunity because I don't get much. I want to thank my hands for being so great."

Though it was the Eagles' first meaningful game in nearly a mouth, they showed no rust. Donovan McNabb led the offense into the end zone on three of the first four possessions and the defense shut down Daunte Culpepper, Randy Moss and the rest of the NFC's second-highest scoring

Only Michael Vick and the Falcons stand in the way of the Eagles' first trip to the Super Bowl in 24 years. Philadelphia, which has lost three consecutive NFC title games, the last two at home, hosts Atlanta next Sunday — the first time a team has hosted three straight conference champion-

ships.
"We need to seal the deal next
week, no questions asked," said
linebacker Ike Reese, who had
one of the team's two interceptions. "I talked to the players and
said, 'Sacrifice for a week. Sacrifice for the good of the team, whatever it is. Do extra.'"

The Eagles (14-3) did enough against the Vikings, coming up with big plays on offense and defense, silencing critics who thought coach Andy Reid shouldn't have rested most of his starters for almost two full games.

McNabb finished 21-for-33 for 286 yards and two TDs, and Mitchell had five catches for 65 yards and one TD and recovered a fumble in the end zone for another score.

"I guess the time we had off, we weren't too rusty," McNabb said.

SEE EAGLES ON PAGE 34

Flawless final round lifts Singh to Sony title Page 31

